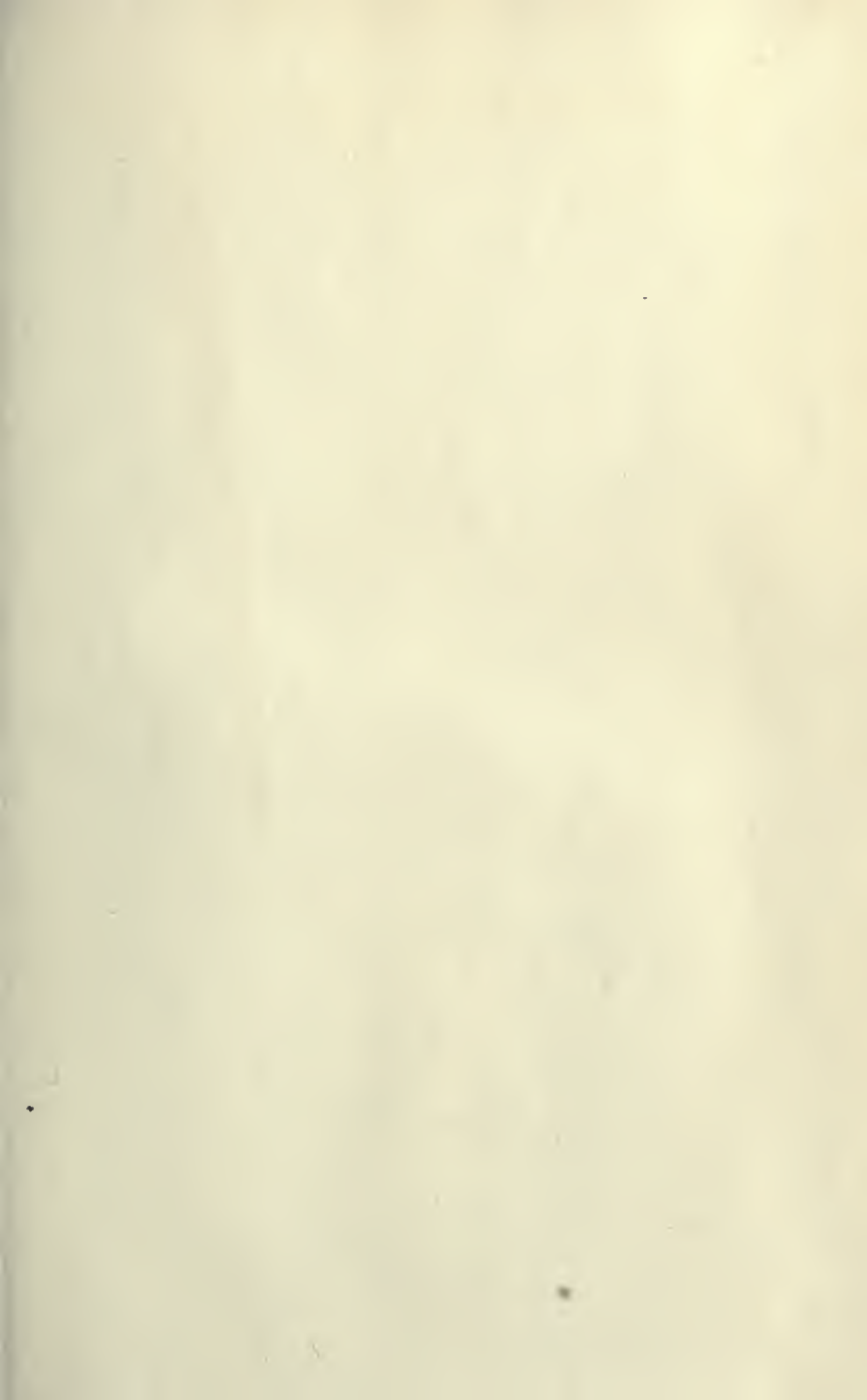
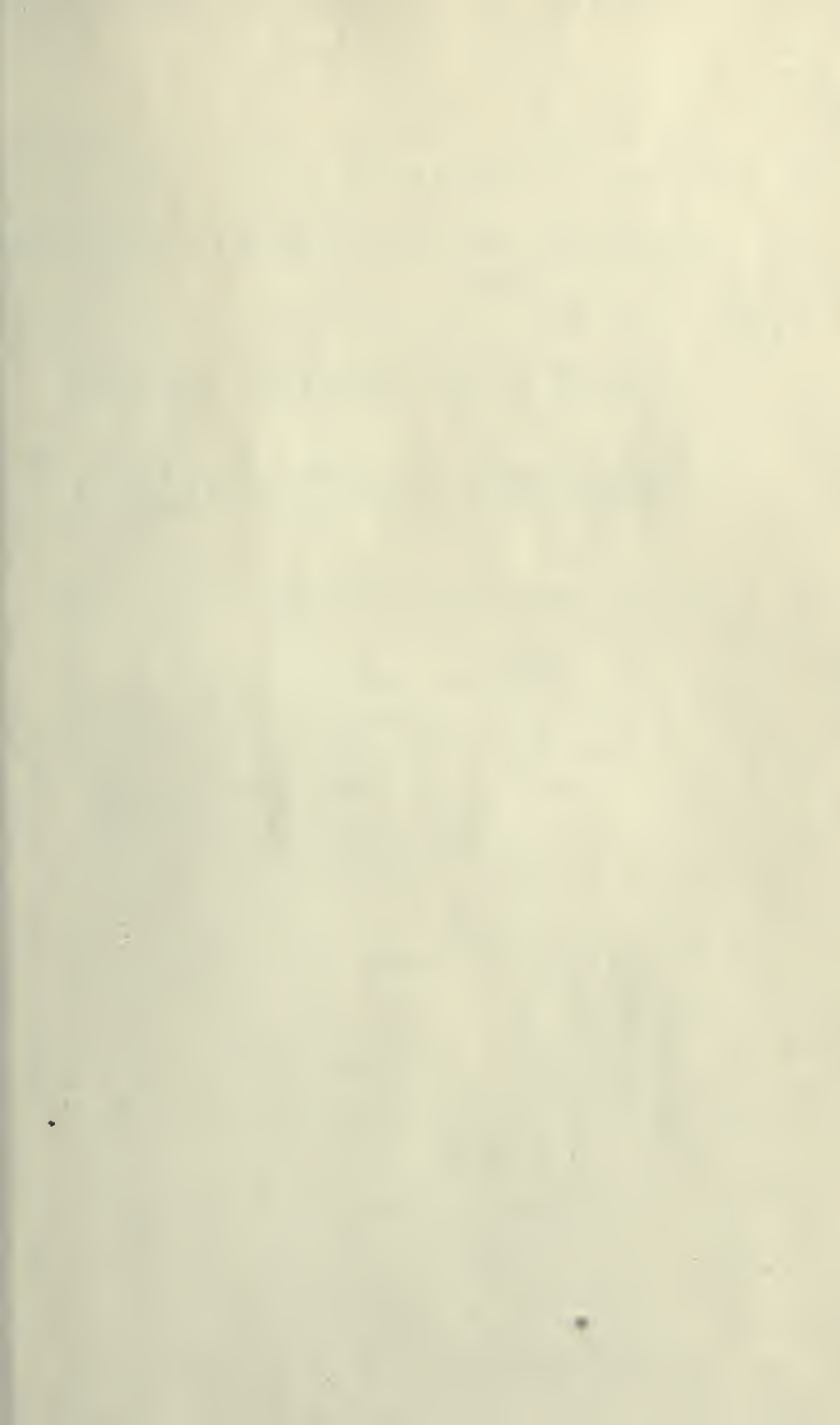
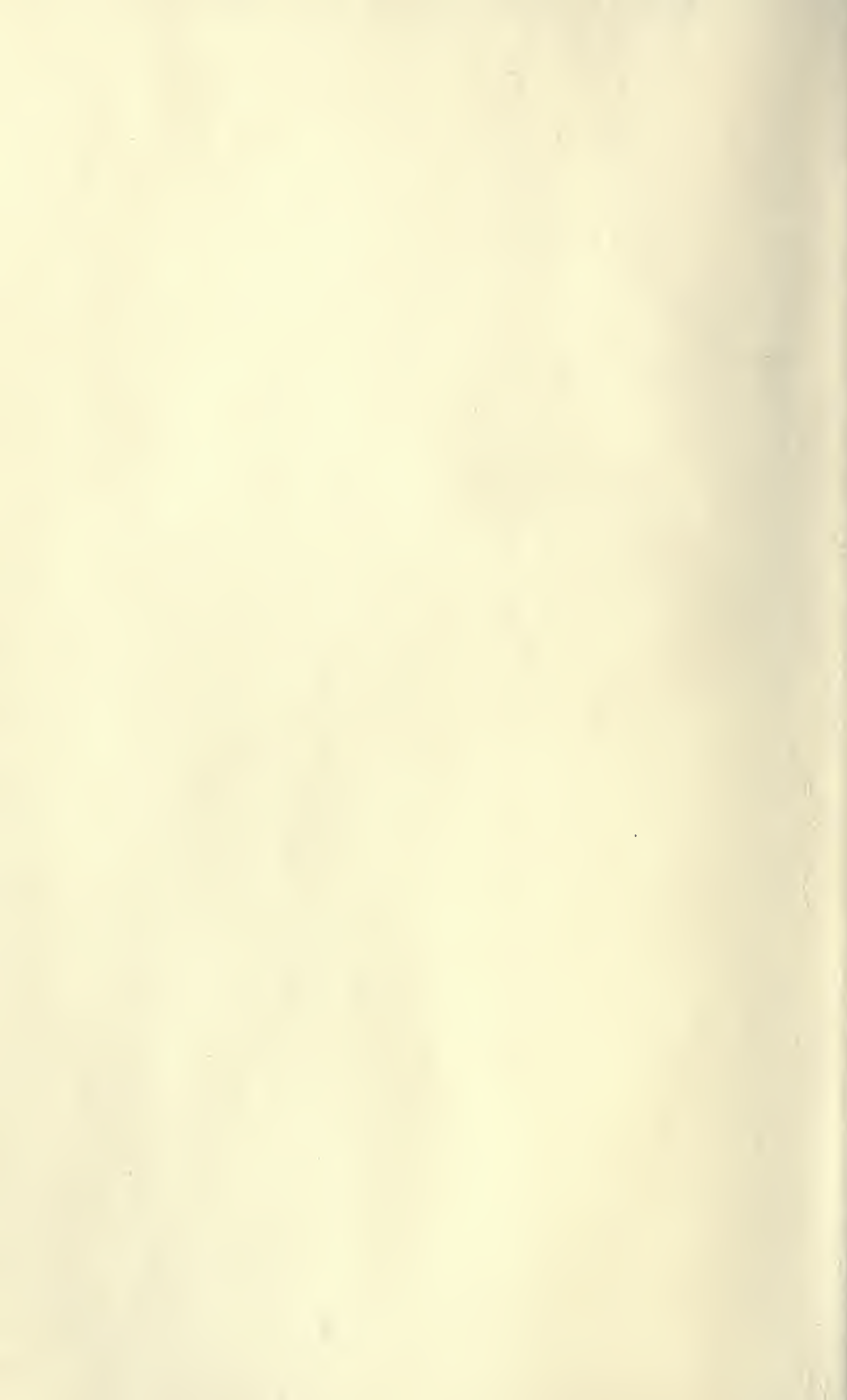






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Vol. 23. No. 1.] - 4

[APRIL, 1917. -

Subscription 6/- per annum; Separate Numbers, 2/- each. 750



THE
Berks, Bucks & Oxon
Archæological Journal.



Published in connection with the following Societies:—

The Berkshire Archæological Society
The Newbury District Field Club
The Oxford Architectural & Historical Society
The Oxfordshire Archæological Society
The Oxford University Antiquarian Society
The Ladies' Brass-rubbing Society of Oxford.

THE JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

EDITED BY

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the Berks Archæological Society.*

AND

JOHN HAUTENVILLE COPE.

Reading:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY CHAS. SLAUGHTER & SON.

London: ELLIOT STOCK, 62, Paternoster Row.



Subscriptions for Vol. XXIII. ARE NOW DUE.
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Special Cases for Binding have been prepared by Messrs. Knill, Minster Street, Reading. Price 1s. 6d. (including binding). All orders for binding to be sent to Messrs. Knill.

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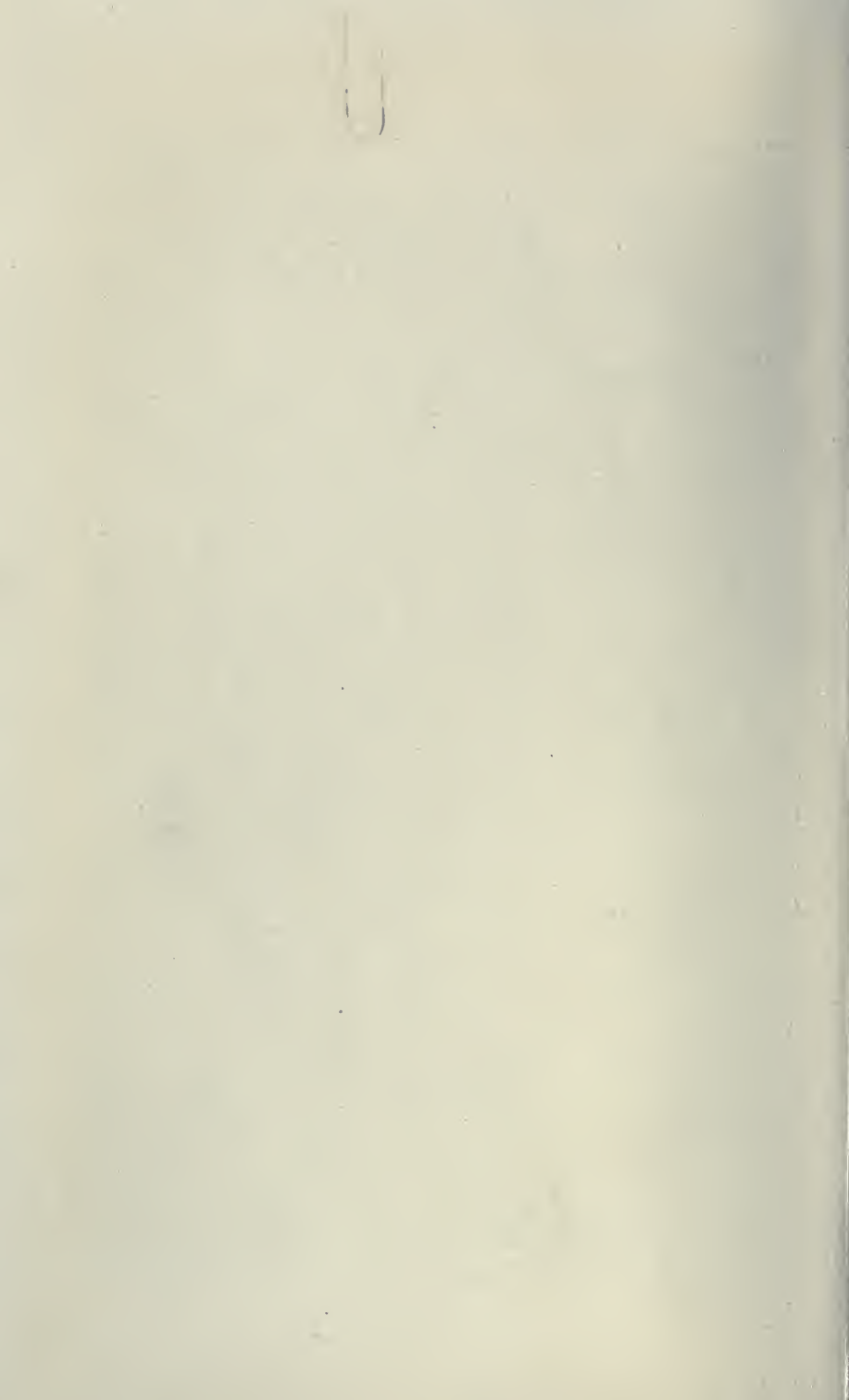


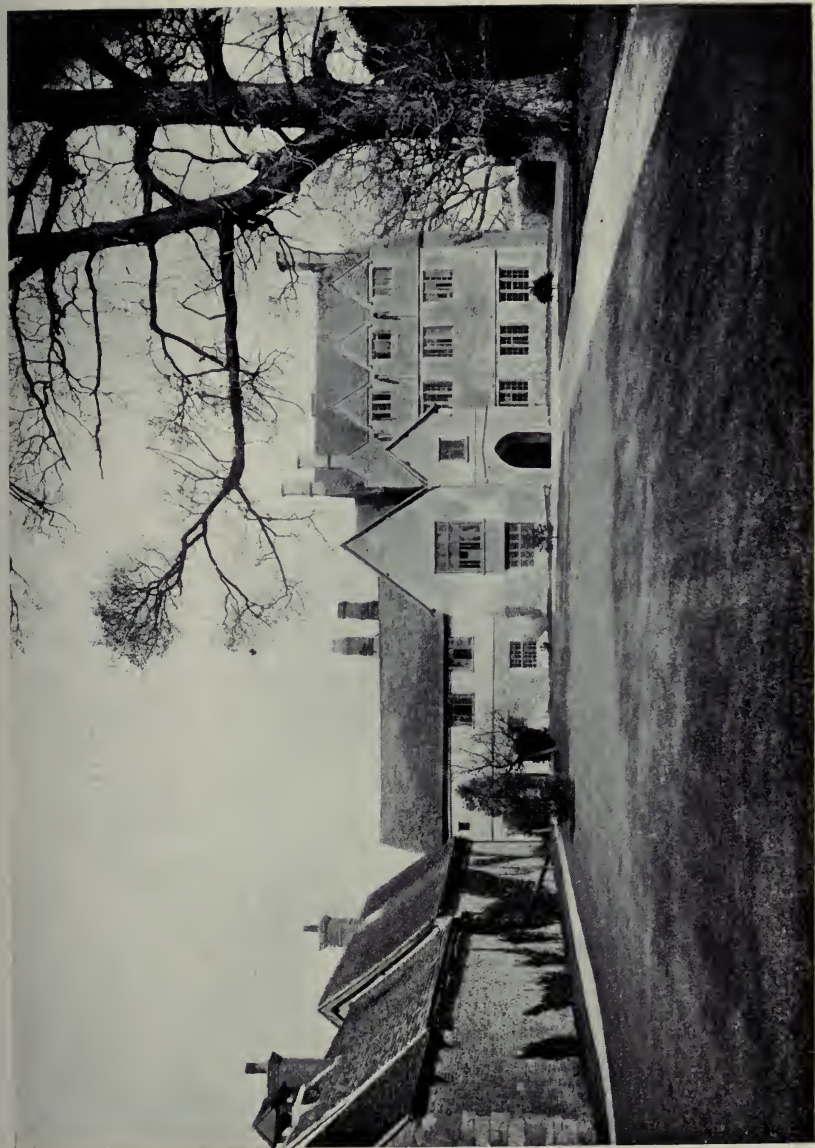
Taunton, Oxford.

BEFORE RESTORATION.

Fig. 1.

Messerschmidt

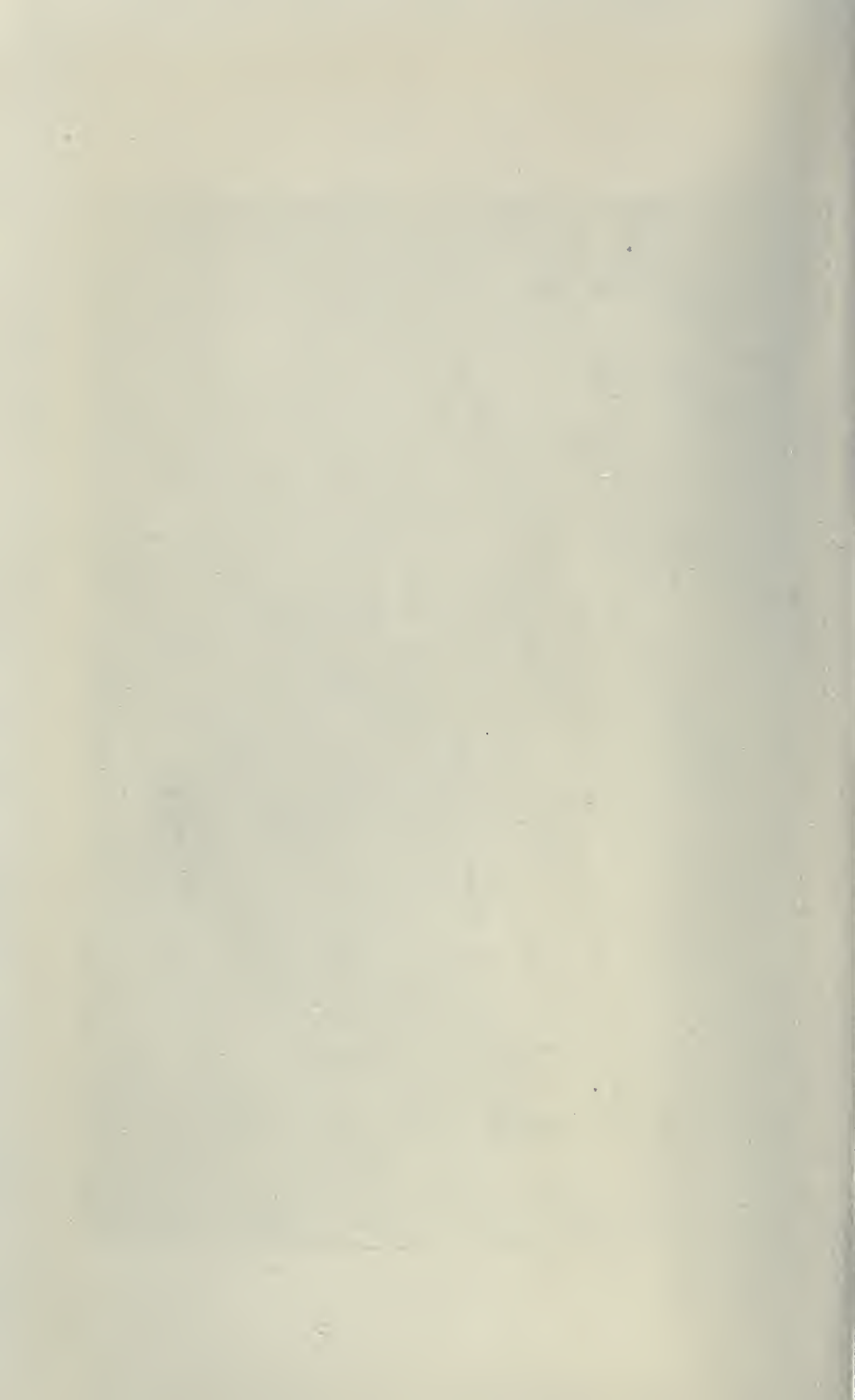




Taunt, Oxford.

AFTER RESTORATION.

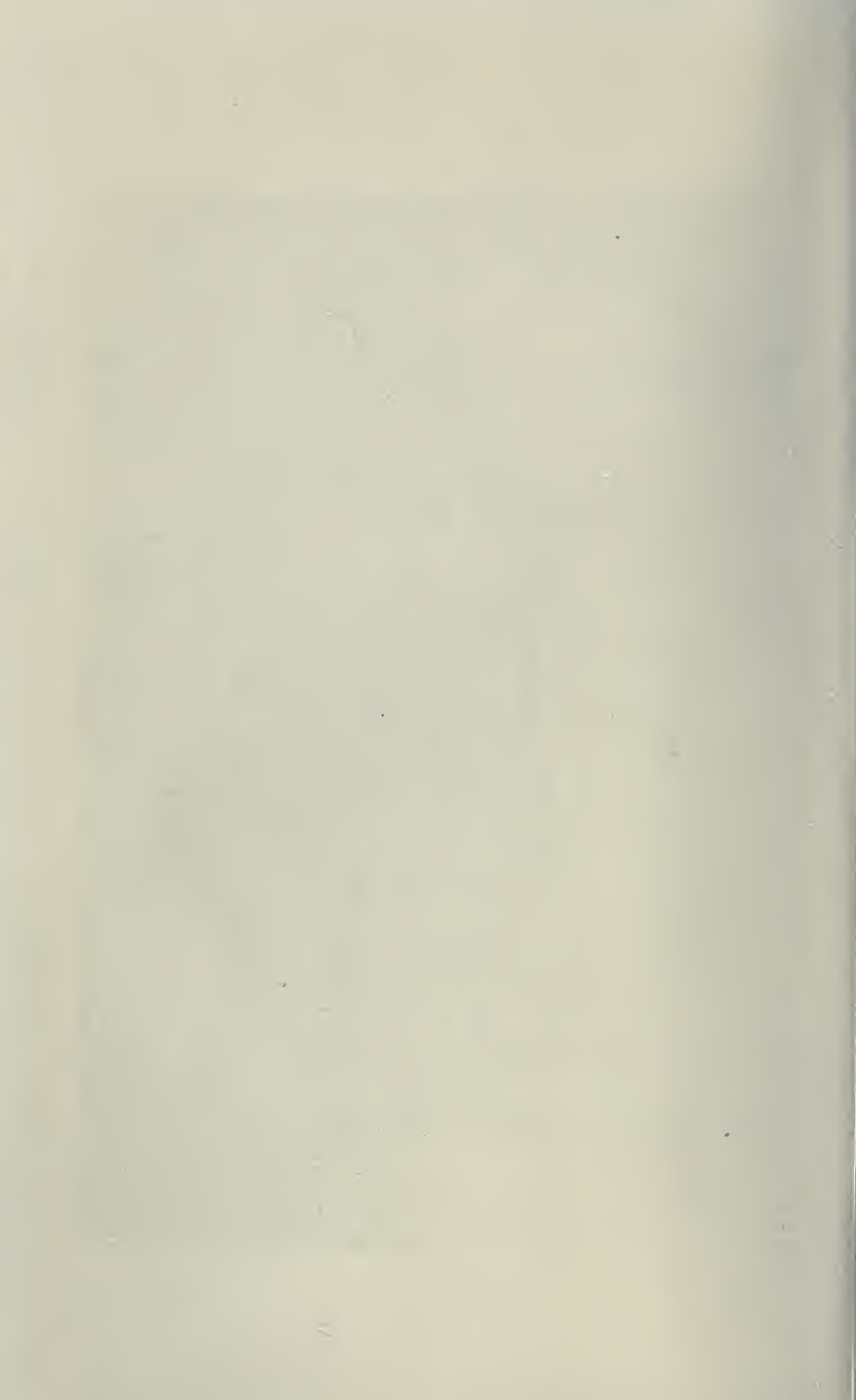
Fig. 2.





Taunt, Oxford.
FROM THE NORTH.

Fig. 3. BEFORE THE FIRE.

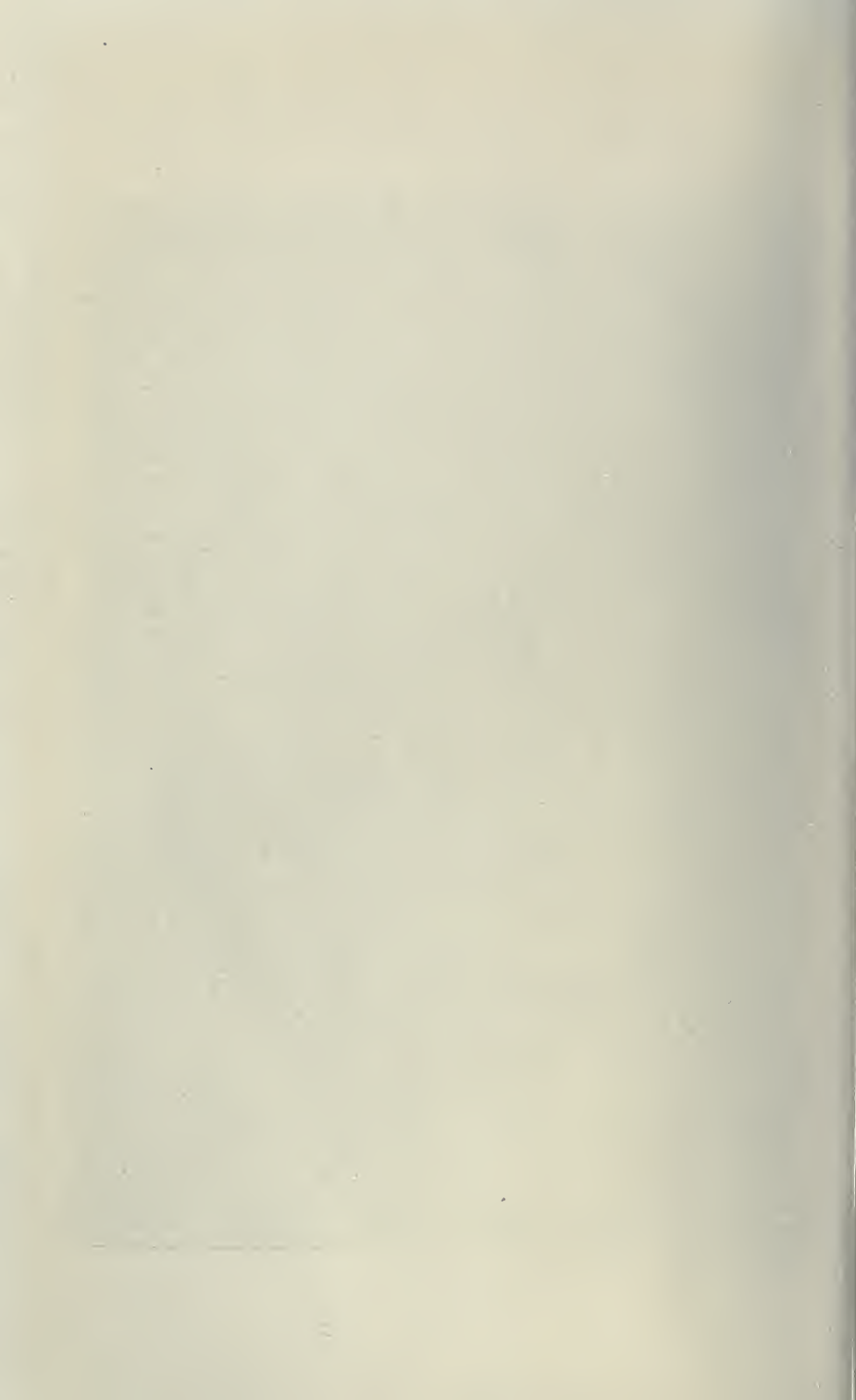




Taunt, Oxford.

FROM THE SOUTH.

Fig. 4. BEFORE THE FIRE.





Taunt, Oxford.

INTERIOR LOOKING EAST.

Fig. 5. BEFORE THE FIRE.



Taunt, Oxford.

FROM THE SOUTH.

Fig. 6. OCTOBER 27th, 1893.



Taunton, Oxford.

SOUTH CHAPEL AND CHANCEL.

Fig. 7. OCTOBER 27th, 1893.



Taunt, Oxford.
INTERIOR LOOKING EAST.

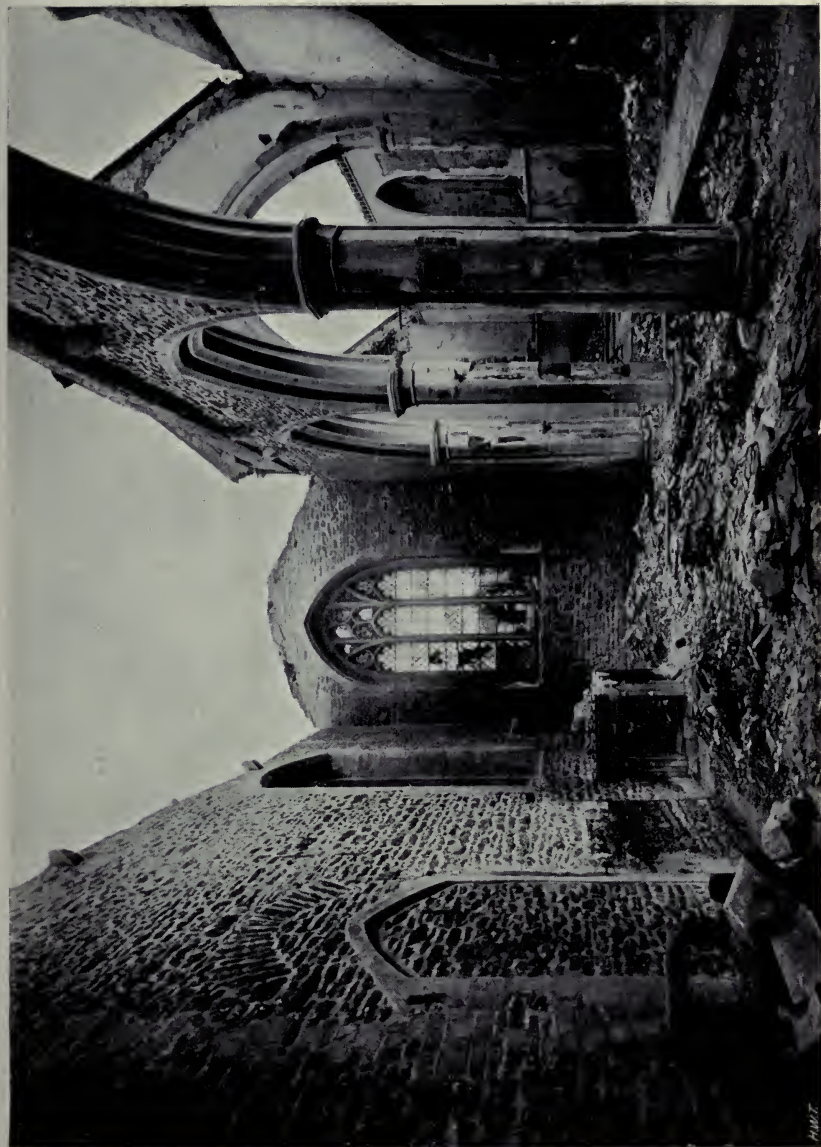
Fig 8. OCTOBER 27th, 1893.



Taunt, Oxford.

INTERIOR LOOKING WEST.

Fig. 9. OCTOBER 27th, 1893.



Taunt, Oxford.

INTERIOR OF NORTH AISLE.

Fig. 10. OCTOBER, 27th, 1893.



Taunton, Oxford.

FROM THE SOUTH.

Fig. 11. 1917.

FYFIELD CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons Reading

Fig. 12. 1917. WEST DOORWAY AND INTERIOR LOOKING EAST.

FYFIELD CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons. Reading

Fig. 13. 1917

NORTH DOORWAY.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

FROM THE EAST.

Fig. 14. 1917.



Walton Adams & Son, Reading

SOUTH SIDE OF CHANCEL.

Fig. 15. 1917.



Taunt, Oxford.

INTERIOR LOOKING EAST.

Fig. 16. 1917.



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

Notes on the Churches of Fyfield, Besselsleigh, Appleton, Cumnor, Mooton, and Sunningwell.

By Charles E. Keyser, M.A., F.S.A., President.

COMMUNICATED TO THE BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
MARCH 29th, 1917.

I HAVE this year had some difficulty in keeping up my custom of bringing under the notice of our Members a fresh group of our Berkshire Churches, as the necessary restrictions on our means of locomotion, the limitation of the use of some of the indispensable articles connected with photography, and the shortage of labour, have combined to undermine my principle of personally obtaining a thorough knowledge of my subject, and of presenting to you here, and later on to the readers of our Journal, a fairly complete architectural description of the Churches selected. I have therefore been fortunate in finding a group, in the north-western corner of the County, which have at various times been photographed by my friend Mr. H. W. Taunt, of Oxford, who has so efficiently assisted me on many previous occasions, and thus has enabled me in one more visit in the company of my colleague Mr. Marcus Adams, to obtain the lantern illustrations, about 130 in number, which I propose to submit to you this afternoon.

Although I have on several occasions visited the Churches of Fyfield, Besselsleigh, Appleton and Cumnor, I am not so well

acquainted with their details as I could wish, and I can only hope that I shall not exhibit any want of accuracy in my attempt to describe them. Wootton and Sunningwell I inspected for the first time a fortnight ago, and though they are not architecturally as interesting as the other four Churches, still I shall hope to view them again, before these notes appear in the Journal.

Of the history of the Parishes I shall attempt to say very little. As might be expected, the great Abbey of Abingdon appears from early times to have acquired large vested interests in this part of the County, and no doubt various distinguished individuals have been connected with the several parishes and manors, and this information will, I trust, be compiled by the editors of the Victoria County History, when that important work may be completed for the benefit of the public.

Starting from Abingdon along the upper Faringdon road, a drive of six miles will bring us to Fyfield, passing the modern church of Tubney, and the noble elm which stands at the junction of the Oxford road. Fyfield, or Fyfhide, seems to have got into the possession of Abingdon Abbey at a very early date, but apparently both Manor and Church were taken away, as in the 12th century they were held by the Fifehide family, and were subsequently acquired by the Golafrés, one of whom married the heiress of the last of the Fifehides. Later again they were purchased from Lady Gordon by Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College, Oxford, and were presented by him to the College as part of its endowment, with the proviso that his family should be the lessee of the Manor, and have certain privileges in connection with the College. Fyfield Manor House, close to the Church, is a very interesting building, dating from the early part of the 14th century. It was the home of the Golafrés, and is said to have been built by the first Sir John Golafré, who also rebuilt the adjoining Church. A view of the house as it was before it became the residence of that distinguished antiquary, Mr. James Parker, is here given (Fig. 1). It was then in a very dilapidated condition, but was restored by Mr. Parker, as we now see it (Fig. 2). The most interesting and earliest parts of the house, are the porch with the quarter round on the outer arch, and a very good inner doorway enriched with the ball-flower ornament, and a room above, and three interior arches, all of early 14th century date. There are also some good old beams to the roof of one of the upper rooms.

The Church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and the advowson with

the Manor was purchased by Sir Thomas White, and presented by him to his new foundation, St. John's College at Oxford in 1555, to which they still belong.

The Church consists of a low west tower and turret above, nave, north aisle, south chapel and Chancel. It was greatly injured by a disastrous fire on October 27th, 1893, which destroyed the roofs, screens and glass, and damaged the stone work of the pillars, windows and monuments. A very careful restoration was undertaken, and as far as possible the mischief has been repaired, and the Church still contains much of architectural interest.

The west and north doorways prove the existence of a Church of the beginning of the 13th century, but a drastic rebuilding seems to have been undertaken according to tradition by the first Sir John Golafré, the Chancel being of early 14th century date. The north aisle was built by the second Sir John Golafré, and was completed with the two eastern bays as a chantry to St. John the Baptist in 1442. The monument to Lady Gordon, or Easter Sepulchre, on the north side of the Chancel is of early 16th century date. There are numerous later monuments to the Dales, Whites and Perrotts, which will be referred to in due course.

The illustrations have been arranged as follows: Two of the Manor House, one before, and the other since its restoration by Mr. James Parker; three of the Church taken before the fire of 1893, five showing the damage wrought by the fire, and the rest portraying the Church in its present condition. In our perambulation it will be impossible to keep these in their proper order, but it is hoped that no trouble will be experienced in identifying the references with the several plates. It will, however, lessen the difficulty, if we depart from our usual custom, and commence our description of the Church from the outside.

The west tower (Figs. 4 and 11) is described by Parker in the Ecclesiastical Topography as "modern, very bad." The lower stage is rectangular, the upper, octagonal; and this before the fire was surmounted by a very picturesque octagonal bell-cote, capped by a lead cupola. This was entirely destroyed by the fire, and a plain octagonal upper stage to the tower has been substituted at the rebuilding. The two lower stages do not look modern, but are in the late debased Perpendicular style, with square-headed west doorway, with label above, and single-light window on the lower west front of the octagonal portion. This has been built on to the original west wall of the Church. Here we have a relic of the

Church existing at the beginning of the 13th century, in the west doorway opening to the nave (Fig. 12). It is semicircular-headed, and so closely corresponding with the main entrance arch of Appleton Manor House, that it may undoubtedly be asserted to be of the same date, and the work of the same architect. It has an undercut hoodmould and two recessed orders, with, on the outer, a roll and keel-shaped member with hollow between, and roll with a slightly pointed edge to the inner order. The abacus is undercut, and there are two engaged shafts on each side with foliated capitals. The interior arch is more lofty than the exterior one. The north aisle (Fig. 3), built by the second John Golafré and completed in 1442, has very good Perpendicular windows at the east and west ends. These are of three lights and have very rich upper tracery of the same character as those at Sutton Courtenay. On the north side is a large square-headed three-light late Perpendicular window, and near the west end a two-light window, also square-headed, but of 14th century date. This and the north doorway were no doubt moved from their original situation in the north wall of the nave when the aisle was built. The north doorway (Fig. 13) is of the same date and character as that at the west end of the nave. It is now blocked up, semicircular-headed having a chamfered hoodmould, and with the keel-shaped moulding on face and edge of the arch with hollow between. The abacus is undercut, and a fluted capital remains on each side, the shafts having been destroyed. This must date about 1200, or very early in the 13th century.

The Chancel (Fig. 7) is entirely the work of the first Sir John Golafré. It is traditionally reported to date about 1350, but this seems to be at least 30 years too late. It has an east window, and two windows on the north and south sides. The east window (Fig. 14) is a very fine example of the Decorated style, of four lights, with rich geometrical tracery and a series of quatrefoils in the head. It has an exterior hoodmould or dripstone terminating on the heads of a bearded gentleman and lady. The north (Fig. 3) and south (Fig. 15) windows are of two lights with a quatrefoil in the head, and with hoodmould terminating on heads; the west on north, of a dog and monkey; the east, of a jester and monkey; the east on south, of a king and queen, alleged to portray Edward II. and Isabella; and the west, of a gentleman and lady, claimed as representations of Sir John Golafré and his lady. There are graduated buttresses supporting the angles and side walls of the Chancel. The south Chancel doorway is of the same date, with hoodmould ter-

minating on the heads of two monks in their cowls, and chamfered arch and jambs. The south window of the Chapel and the south window of the nave (Figs. 4, 6 and 11) are new in the Decorated style with flamboyant tracery. The Chapel is described by Parker as being of plain Perpendicular character.

The south porch is modern and of very poor design. The outer arch of the south doorway has been renewed. The interior has a segmental hoodmould, undercut, of the 14th century period. Taking up our position in the centre of the Chancel, we find much of great architectural interest, which fortunately escaped the ravages of the fire. The roof is described by Parker as underdrawn and very poor, but in the illustration (Fig. 5) it appears to be wagon-shaped of 14th century date. Probably at the previous restoration this was brought to light. The present timber roof is panelled and of a different character to the one destroyed. Along the north and south walls below the wall plate is a cornice enriched with the ball flower ornament, and below the windows a good stringcourse with what is, I believe, designated the wave moulding. The east window (Fig. 17), as has already been stated, is a very fine example of the Decorated style, with four lights, having a series of quatrefoils in the head. The angles of the containing arch are chamfered. Below is the embattled canopy of the original 14th century reredos (Fig. 18), but a cornice enriched with foliage has been inserted above it at a later period, and is of 15th century date. In the centre of the canopy is a beautiful tabernacle niche (Fig. 19), either for the reservation of the Host, or possibly for a relic, as at Stanford-in-the-Vale. It is octagonal in plan with a cinquefoiled arch on each face, angle buttresses, formerly capped by finials, and a small pedestal for a figure within the main west recess. It is of the 14th century period, and an exceedingly rare example of a niche of this character in such a position.

On north and south of Chancel the two two-light Decorated windows with quatrefoil in the head have also a chamfered edge to the containing arch. In the south wall in the usual place is the piscina and three sedilia. The former (Fig. 20) is very beautiful within an oblong frame, having an embattled ornament along the upper cornice. There is a buttress supported on a bracket on each side, that on west with an animal with bearded human head, that on east on head of a lady. The buttresses are panelled on the upper part with crocketed canopies and finials. Above the basin is a rich triangular crocketed canopy and finial, with, in the spandril space

on each side, a quatrefoil enclosing a shield, and trefoil below. Within the canopy is a large quatrefoil within a circle, a trefoil above, and two trefoils within irregular oval frames below. These and the quatrefoil have foliated cusps. There is a pretty cinquefoiled fringe below with central ogee-headed arch. The basin projects from a stone shelf and rests on a bracket. The whole appears to have been coloured, and is a very fine example of late Decorated work. Immediately to the west are the three sedilia (Fig. 21) of the same date, but of much simpler design. They have plain ogee-headed arches with cinquefoiled fringe, supported on detached, and engaged respond, shafts, all octagonal on plan, with a rather late form of capital and base. The seats are level, and not graduated. The interior arch of the south Chancel doorway has a segmental head.

On the north side of the Chancel is a large late Perpendicular monument or Easter Sepulchre (Fig. 22). It is alleged to be the tomb of Lady Gordon, "the white rose of Scotland," daughter of Alexander, the third Earl of Huntley, widow of Peter Warbeck, and at the time of her decease, which occurred in 1527, the wife of Christopher Ashfield, of Fyfield. It has a flat canopy with cresting and cornice enriched with foliage, and with four-centred arch having an open quatrefoil and trefoil within each spandril space. There is a panelled pilaster shaft at each angle. At the back are the indents of brasses of kneeling figures of a knight and lady, he with two sons behind him, and below has been a plate with inscription. An invocation on a scroll has issued from the mouth of each, and above has been a sacred subject, probably a representation of the Blessed Trinity, with a shield on either side. The lower part of the tomb has a flat slab, and the front divided into three and two half panels very elegantly sculptured. Ashmole, Lysons and Parker all mention the upper part as richly painted with dark blue colouring, etc., but this was all destroyed by the fire. Ashmole does not give any account of the brass at the back, and it is doubtful if this is in its original position. He states that it is "called the Lady Gorgon's monument." I am told that this lady had no sons, and if this was so the brasses at the back cannot be intended to portray her and her husband. There can, however, be no doubt that it was erected early in the 16th century to serve the joint purpose of a monument and an Easter Sepulchre, as we find many other similar instances, especially at this period. Much havoc seems to have been wrought with the ancient memorials since Ashmole's notes were taken in the

latter part of the 17th century. He records that "Upon another Grave-stone in the Chancel are the Figures of a Man and his Wife insculped on a Brass Plate, and fixed upon a Grave-stone, underneath whom is this defective Inscription : ' . . . Armiger and Elizabeth Uxor ejus, nuper de Padworth, qui obiit . . . Dni MCCCC. tricesimo ; quorum animabus propicietur Deus. Amen.' " He also gives the full inscriptions of several later monuments, which were at that time in the Chancel, but are now, some in a very damaged condition, preserved in other parts of the Church. He also mentions some heraldic glass, the arms of Golafre and others, as being in the east window, in his time. Did these survive till, and perish during, the fire of 1893 ?

The Chancel arch is lofty and good Decorated in style with outer chamfered order carried down to the ground, and inner supported on semi-octagonal responds. It has been much renewed, although in the illustration (Fig. 8) it does not appear to have been so much damaged as the pillars and arches in the nave. A Decorated arch near the east end of the nave opens to the south chapel (Figs. 5, 8 and 16), which seems to have been much altered, with large new south window, etc., since the Ecclesiastical Topography was published in 1850. Here are several large memorial slabs, formerly in the Chancel. On the east wall within a frame is the alabaster tablet to George Dale. His bust is represented as a civilian with ruff and with right hand holding a skull, to which he is pointing with his left. Above his head is a shield with the arms gules three bugle horns or or argent. [The same arms appear on the monument of Anthony Forster at Cumnor.] Above again is the carving of a skull within a wreath of leaves and between two palm branches. The inscription in capital letters has been much injured by the fire, but can be thus restored from the record in Ashmole's "Antiquities of Berkshire," the portions within brackets now being illegible :—

Memoriæ Sacrum

Georgii Dale, nati antiqua et illustri
 Familia in Agro Somerset, quondã Coll :
 Oriel Oxon Socii, Academiæ Procurator^{is}
 Aulæ [*B Mariæ Virg Præfec*] ti et II :
 Doct [*oris, viri literis*] et moribus
 Ornat[*issimi qui senio ta*]ndem confectus
 Anima [*m placide cælo re*] ddidit Novemb
 [xxvi MDCXXV. *Æt. suæ*] 66
 Uxor M[*aria, filia Guliel et Amit L*]eech

Pronep[*tis Thomæ White fundat*]
 Coll. D. [*Joan Bapt. Oxon pii*] affectūs
 E[*rgo superstes pos*] uit.

which he translates as follows :—

“Sacred to the memory of George Dale, sprung from an Ancient and Illustrious Family, in the County of Somerset, late a fellow of Oriel College, Oxon, Proctor of the University, President of the Hall of the blessed Virgin Mary, and Doctor of Law; a Man of most ornate Literature and Manners, who worn out with Age, quietly gave up his Soul to Heaven, Nov. 26th, 1625, of his age 66. His Wife Mary, Daughter of William and Aunt* of Leech, Great Grand-Daughter of Tho. White, Kt., Founder of the College of St. John’s the Baptist, Oxon, out of pious affection, his Relict erected this.”

On the west wall of the chapel is the white marble frame of a large tablet. This is now laid on the floor, being somewhat damaged by fire, and commemorates Charles Perrott, the third son of James Perrot, of Amersham, and Anne, heiress of George and Mary Dale. It was formerly on the north wall of the Chancel, and the epitaph in Latin, which is of unusual length, is fully set out in Ashmole’s “History and Antiquities of Berkshire.” From this we learn that Charles Perrott was an “incomparable man,” an LL.D., and Fellow of the College of St. John the Baptist, Oxford. He was thrice elected Member of Parliament for the University, was a Justice of the Peace for the County of Bucks and City of Oxford, and appointed a Counsellor by the Vice-Chancellor. His innumerable virtues are described at great length, and after four days’ illness “a loss scarce to be repaired in so many ages,” a violent fever removed him, after he had liv’d 43 years, on the 10th of June in the year of our Lord, 1636. The epitaph concludes as follows: “Luge Lector, Mirare, et si possis, imitare.” Lament, Reader, Admire, and if thou canst, Imitate. The epitaph to Sir Edward and Lady Katherine Yate, date 1648, at Buckland, has a similar ending, “Reader, depart, imitate.”

On the floor of this chapel close to the Perrott monument is a slab of Purbeck marble with the indent of a brass plate of pre-Reformation date.

* This is an error. Mary Dale was daughter of William and *Anne* Leech, the said Anne being daughter of Thomas and Mary Bridgman, she being sister of Sir Thomas White. Mary Dale was therefore, as the inscription properly states, great niece of Sir Thomas White. Anne, daughter and heiress of George and Mary Dale, married James Perrot, of Amersham, in the County of Bucks, and there were three sons, William, James and Charles.

History of the Parish of Beenham.

By Mary Sharp.

(Continued from Vol. 22, No. 3. page 82,).

Subsequent Acts deal with the abuses which crept into the administration of the poor laws. In William and Mary's reign "by reason of the unlimited power of churchwardens and overseers, who do frequently, upon frivolous pretexts (but chiefly for their own private ends) give relief to what persons and number they think fit," it was enacted that a list should be kept of all persons receiving relief and the reasons for their doing so, that there should be a yearly meeting of the parishioners to consider this list and the making of a new one, and that "no other person be allowed to receive collection" but "by authority under the hand of one justice of the Peace."

A tattered volume, dated Anno Dom. 1680, contains the earliest records which have been preserved of the Overseers' accounts for Beenham. It is headed :—

An Accompt Booke for the Overseers of
the Poore of the Pish of Beenham,

and the first entry states that

"for the year 1679 Henry Mills was overseer for the poore who gave up his accompts as followeth :—

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
He gathered of the Pish	...	...	14	12	06
His disbursmts. weare	...	...	13	04	07
remains to ye pish	...	...	01	07	11
Paid for ye wart. (warrant)	...	...			I
soe rests in Stocke	...	...	I	6	11

Thomas Eldredge is elected overseer for the year 1680.

Ph. Goddard, vic.

John Smith
O. Francis Claydon
William Wickens
John Simes
John Blagrove.

Signed and allowed by us

Anth. Craven

Wm. Henrick

Anth. Craven and Wm. Henrick were the Justices of the Peace

who signed the accounts in accordance with the Act (43 Eliz.) and the other signatures are those of the Vicar, Churchwardens and Overseers.

The statute enacted that the overseers should be elected yearly, but apparently in Beenham it was the custom for the occupiers of land to take the office in turn, and accordingly in 1686 we find the name of a woman, one "Widdow Parker," but she employed a Thos. Pilgrim to act for her. Many of those who held office must have done the same, at least so far as keeping the accounts was concerned, for many of them were quite illiterate, signing their mark only.

In these early accounts no details are given. For some reason 1685-9 were expensive years, the amount expended in relief being over £20 and twice rising to £30. Then it sank again for several years. In 1697, when Mr. Richard Parkins was overseer, only £4 13s. 10d. was spent. It was not till 1698, six years after the passing of the law above quoted, that the Beenham Overseers complied with its decree that the details of all the relief given should be entered in the accounts. The following is

"The account of what money I have paid to the pore in the yeare 1698 by Mr. Rich : Awbery

				<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
paid For the warant	...	...	...	0	01	0
paid Rich : Dann ill	...	...	...	0	01	0
paid Sammiwill Weller	...	...	...	1	00	0
October 28. Paid John Apleby for keeping						
the woman that laid in at his house	...			1	05	8
(this last entry is scratched out and the account continues)						
paid for the bearth of the child	...	...	...	0	02	0
paid John Nobes	...	...	...	0	04	0
Paid John Apelby for houseroom for six						
weeks	...	...	...	0	09	0
paid John Apelby for seven weeks	...			0	10	0
paid William Simes	...	...	...	0	15	0
Laid out	...	...	...	3	5	6
Received in Stock	...	...	...	3	13	2
Collected by rate	...	...	...	3	9	1
Received in ye whole	...	...	...	7	2	3
Remaines in Stock	...	...	...	3	18	9

Henry Winchcomb

Philip Goddard - Vic :
The × Marke of
Richard Simes - Churchwarden
Richard Hoane.

John Paty tenant of Sir Henry Winchcomb's farm is nominated Overseer of ye Poor for ye Parish of Beenham for ye year 1699."

Was Richard Simes, we wonder, who signed his mark as Churchwarden, any relation to the William Simes who was in receipt of relief, and if so why did he not contribute to his support ?

In 1703 there is the first entry of the names of those persons who paid the rate. They were 23 in number and the amount raised, at 1*d.* in the £1, was £3 10*s.* 3*d.*, but this must have been levied several times in the year as the overseer states in his accounts that he "gathered by rate" £16 18*s.* 4*d.*

There were at this time four paupers in receipt of regular relief and for whom house rent was paid ; this last was at the rate of 1/- a week and the amount of relief given weekly varied from 4/- to 5/-.

From this time onwards the amount spent in poor relief rose steadily. In 1743 it was evidently found that the constant raising of a 1*d.* rate was too troublesome ; it is significant of the amount of money then expended that in that year one was raised for 2/-. In the various items given below attention is called to the expenses incurred as a result of the law of settlement, constant litigation arising as to which parish a pauper belonged, which, with the expenses of removing the said pauper, often came to more than it would have cost to relieve him for a twelvemonth.

"Paid the Wido Ford for one day's work with her teme, 5/-." Expenses at Seshions, 15/-. Paid the crier of the Court, 4*d.* Paid for the order, 2/6. Paid for the witnes to des [deeds ?], 2/-. Paid Counsellor Turrell, £2 3*s.* Paid ditto 4 single fees, £2. Paid for ye Rule of ye Courte, £1 0*s.* 6*d.* Paid Mr. Guise another journey, £1 0*s.* 6*d.* For horse hire and charges to Reading, 3/6. For a warrant and charge at Theale, 2/-. For a journey on account of Jn. Sandford, 10/6.

The following items show what it cost to bury a pauper in the first half of the 18th century :—

Paid ye Wido Chamberlain for laying out John Millard... 1/-

Paid for ye burial of John Milard 4/-

Evidently poor Jno. Millard died of the small pox, for "Nails, lime and sand" are included in the charge for a coffin, the whole costing 5/6. "A sarge shroud" cost 1/-, while "beare, bread and cheese

at the burying" came to 3/6, and the "Clarke" was paid 2/-, and a "Certificate" cost 6d. The poor wife also caught the plague, for we have an entry, "Paid the Wido Milard in her aflikton of ye smalpox, 10/6." Considering the nature of the disease, 1/8 "Paid to Tho. Smallbone w^t he laid out for John Millard to ye Dr." seems little enough, but if it was the same doctor who was paid £7 7s. "for ye cure of John Style's leg," perhaps his rate of charges was higher for cures than for kills.

Unfortunately a chapter is missing from the Poor Law history of Beenham. The old volume, which began in 1680, ends in 1752, and the only other volume which has been preserved begins in 1796. We open it to find a state of affairs which it is hard to realise could have come about in less than fifty years. During that time all the parish accounts had become merged, both the Churchwardens' and the Constable's accounts being included in those of the Overseers'. There is no record to show at what date they took over the expenses of the Constable, but the last entry in the Churchwardens' account book is as follows :—

"Settled the Churchwarden's Account to Jan. 27th, 1790, by
J. Carter, Overseer of the Poor."

As we have seen, the largest sum expended by the Constable in one year, prior to the year 1756, was £37 18s. 10d. The largest recorded in the Churchwardens' accounts was £47 12s., and these were exceptional years. The average expenditure of the Overseers, prior to 1752, was £25 to £30—a total annual expenditure for the parish of under £150. When we turn to the bill for 1796 we are confronted by a total of £803 7s. 6½d. This tremendous increase was not peculiar to Beenham; according to a table taken from the *Encyclopædia Britannica* the rise was general throughout England, and was out of all proportion to the increase of the population.

In 1750 the population of England and Wales was 6,467,000, the expenditure on the poor £689,000, rate per head 2½. In 1800 the population was 9,140,000, the expenditure £3,861,000, rate per head 8½. To go thoroughly into the causes which produced this enormous increase would be quite beyond the scope of this history, but one or two may be briefly touched on. The price of provisions had, owing to war and other causes, largely increased, but the labourers' wages had not risen in proportion. "While prices for a day's food had advanced from the middle to the end of the century about one-third, the advance of those of a day's labour during a corresponding period had been only one-seventh." It was then that

the magistrates instituted the system of supplementing the labourers' pay on a scale determined by the price of the gallon loaf. "The hitherto insignificant village of Speenham in Berkshire sprang into a lasting notoriety by becoming the site of the first scale allowance process." [*Annals of the British Peasant*.—Garnier]. To adopt this system was practically to put a premium on pauperism. There was no incentive to honest labour when the man who would not work fared equally as well. An old man of the writer's acquaintance still uses the words "round's man" to denote an idle, good-for-nothing fellow. Round's men were those receiving scale pay and employed by the Overseers in the following fashion:—They were distributed among the occupiers of land and received from them a proportion—generally about $\frac{3}{4}$ ths—of the average wage of the district, the parish adding an allowance which made up the wage to the scale agreed upon. Farmers often turned off good honest workmen to benefit by this decreased wage, though, as the rates which supplemented it came mostly from their pockets,¹ it is hard to see that they reaped much advantage, while it pressed extremely hardly on the small holder whose own family provided the necessary labour for his holding but who was taxed almost out of existence to provide for these supplements to other men's wages. The cruelty to the honest and deserving labourer is obvious. The increase in the numbers of those receiving relief naturally made the ratepayers more determined than ever not to be burdened with any paupers from other parishes, but here again was a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, the amount spent in litigation over such cases increasing yearly. An Overseer fitted to cope with such onerous work as his office now involved must have been rarely found, and the difficulties of his task were largely increased by the fact that the magistrates could always be appealed to by the pauper, and they, anxious not to err on the score of harshness, generally settled all claims by reference to the bread scale without regard to the conduct or ability of the applicant, with which, indeed, they were not likely to be acquainted. Instances, too, were given in the Poor Laws Commissioners' first report (1834), where the "population of a union consisted chiefly of smugglers and poachers, who extorted their scale allowance from a reluctant Overseer by threats of personal injury."

We are unable to give the details of the parish expenses for the year ending March 1796, because the volume only begins with the last few months of the year, but the following is an abstract from the accounts for 1796-7. In these every payment is entered in minute

detail, but a summary of them under different headings will, it is hoped, make them easier to be understood.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Clothing, principally for children bound as apprentices and girls put out to service	4	8	0
Funerals	2	7	6
The Constable's account	19	10	1
Rents (these include allowances paid to various cottagers for lodging paupers)...	11	8	0
Dinner, etc. (at the Vestry Meeting) ...	1	14	5
Exes Woodstock	0	2	6
Taking a man to Oxford Hospital ...	0	10	6
6 Spinning Wheels at 10/- (these were for giving employment to female paupers)	1	10	0
Paid in wages to persons waiting on cases of small pox	14	1	1
Paid for paupers in other parishes ...	15	12	16
21 paupers in receipt of monthly pay ...	165	2	9
Paid in sickness and casual relief ...	163	7	5
Various bills (items not given, but probably including the Churchwardens' account)	13	8	3
Wheat and flour (for bread given in relief)	32	9	0
Ballotted man for supplementing militia...	2	12	6
	447	16	10

This last item occurs frequently in the accounts of this period, when the Continental wars were at their height and the army was constantly being recruited from the peasant ranks. During his absence on service the parish was often called upon to pay for the keep of the soldier's family; for this reason they often found it cheaper to pay for a substitute—some unmarried man—to take his place. The following is a copy of the sort of notice issued by the Deputy Lieutenants to the Churchwardens and Overseers in respect to the payment for such substitutes :—

Reading Division of the County of Berks.

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of
Beenham in the County of Berks.

Whereas Joseph Wythe of the aforesaid Parish hath been
chosen by ballot to serve in the Militia of the County of

Berks which is now embodied and in actual service, and hath provided a substitute who hath been approved and sworn and enrolled and hath served for the space of 28 days in the said militia and the said Joseph Wythe having made oath that he is not possessed of an estate in lands, goods or money of the clear value of £500. We two of his Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants acting in and for the said division wherein your said Parish is situate, do hereby order you to pay to the said Joseph Wythe the sum of 5 pounds which we adjudge to be one half of the current price paid for a substitute within the same county out of an Act made for providing and producing volunteers . . . and in case no volunteers shall have been provided or produced by you then out of a rate to be made and collected agreeable to the poor rate according to the directions of the Act in such cases and under penalty of 10 pounds on your refusing to pay the same on demand and production of this our order given under our hands and seals the 11th day of August 1803.

(Signed) JOHN BLAGRAVE—HENRY MARCH.

The expenses for this year (1796-7) were met by three rates at 2/-, which produced £392 13s. 6d. Rent (possibly for one of the parish houses not required that year for paupers), £2. and by the sum of £13 6s. 9½d. refunded to the parish for sums expended on paupers belonging to other parishes; this, with stock in hand of £79 12s., amounted in all to £487 12s. 3½d., which left a balance in hand of £39 15s. 5d.

It will be noticed that there is a remarkable drop in the expenses from the preceding year. We are unable to offer any explanation of this difference of over £350. But the remarkable fluctuations which take place in the next few years lead one to conjecture that the amount expended depended in great measure on who was Overseer, while it leaves one to wonder how the ratepayers put up with a state of things so inimical to their pockets. Probably the explanation given the writer by a nonogenarian who retains a lively recollection of the state of things under the old poor laws is the correct one, namely, that the bulk of the ratepaying farmers were illiterate men, with no qualifications for keeping accounts, and, being also fully occupied with their own concerns, were only too glad to hand over the work to anyone who would undertake it, and

that many an Overseer waxed fat at the expense alike of ratepayer and pauper.

In the year 1797-8 the expenditure sank further to £397 15s. 1½d. In the year 1798-9 it again fell to £363 16s. 6d. Then in the year 1799-1800 it rose with a bound to £702 11s., which was expended as follows :—

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Clothing rises to	65	0	5½
(£30 14s. 8d. of this is stated to belong to the previous year)			
Rents rise to	24	5	6
Churchwardens' account (for two years)...	36	11	6
Constable's account	17	11	4
Substitute for Militia	4	6	8
Funerals	2	18	10
Innoculating		2	6
Letters (this was for postage paid in those days by the recipient)		2	3
Glazing windows and wood	1	10	0
Various bills of which no items are given	9	18	3
Spent at the Parish meetings	2	9	9
Paupers in other parishes	16	1	0
On sickness and poverty in Beenham ...	521	13	6
	702	11	0½

Towards this only £5 2s. was contributed for bastards and for paupers belonging to other parishes.

By the end of this year the number of persons entered as in receipt of regular relief had risen to over fifty, and the following year 1800-1 gives a roll of paupers constantly numbering over 70; and the parish was faced with the enormous bill of £1,325 10s. 9d. After deducting Constables' and Churchwardens' accounts we find £38 11s. 6d. paid in rents for paupers, £10 10s. for medical attendance, £22 for clothing, £6 4s. for funeral expenses besides 10/- for beer, £87 for paupers in other parishes, and no less than £1,100 expended in relief in poverty and sickness in Beenham itself. This with a population of only 318, which consisted of 73 families, who inhabited 70 houses. Six 3/6 rates were levied to defray this appalling bill. Perhaps modern ratepayers may feel comforted for the present state of taxation when they compare it with this 21/- in the pound mulcted from their ancestors.

The following year (1801-2) showed a slight improvement, the total expenditure being £994 1s. 11d., which was met by five 3s. rates and a balance of £55 17s. from the preceding year. The number of persons in receipt of weekly doles had sunk from over sixty at the beginning of the year to under forty at the close, but, on the other hand, the entry "ill" against their names is much more frequent.

The next year (1802-3) a certain Thomas Matthews was overseer. What was the secret of his management we have no means of discovering, but under him there was another phenomenal drop in the expenditure, which fell to £345 18s. 5½d. Of this £17 4s. was refunded to the parish in payment for bastard children, so that roughly speaking the parish expenses were only one-third of those of the previous year, and nearly one-fourth of the huge bill for 1800-1. An entry "For beein' Overseer, £6" marks a grateful appreciation of his services, and it is not surprising that he was re-elected for the following year (1803-4), when the expenditure dropped again to only £307 2s. 5d., and was met by two 2s. rates. The weekly doles were given to between 20 and 30 only, and were very much less in amount. Bread was no cheaper, dearer rather, wages were no higher—what did it all mean? Did it spell rank dishonesty and extravagance on the one hand, or cruel suffering, want and famine on the other? This year the Overseer's salary was fixed at £15 15s., but was raised the next (1804-5) to £20, when the same Thomas Matthews was re-elected with another man to help him, one Richard Stevens. Expenditure rose again this year to £558 15s. 5d., and was met by four 2s. rates. And here we are reluctantly compelled to leave the accounts, which come to an end in September, 1805, about half-way through the parochial year 1804-5; the amount registered at the foot of the last page of the book is £234 12s. 7d., which, as it does not include most of the rents nor the Churchwardens' bill, points to a further rise in expenditure. The nation's bill for the poor continued to steadily increase up to 1818, when it reached its high water mark, and Beenham was probably no exception to its neighbouring parishes. Those to whom the above pages have been of some interest will find abundant and striking information in the Poor Law Commissioners' Report of 1834, while one of the Oxford Studies in Social and Legal History, entitled "One Hundred Years of Poor Law Administration in a Warwickshire Village," deals with the same period as that of the Beenham accounts, and throws much interesting and valuable light

on conditions which varied but little from those in Berkshire.

Mention has not been made of the parish houses which the Overseers were empowered to purchase by the Statute 9 George I. c. 7. The Poor Law Report of 1834 mentions 14 of these houses at Beenham, all condemned as being in a shocking state of repair. Besides these the Overseers rented the Church houses for the use of paupers.

POPULATION OF THE PARISH OF BEENHAM.

The earliest evidence existing on this subject is to be found among the lay subsidies of Berks, under the heading of "A true survey of the Hearths found in the P'ish of Beenham," the following being taken from one made by John Turner, Constable, the 26th day of October, 1663.

The Hearth Tax was enacted "for establishing an additional revenue upon His Majesty" (Charles II., 1662). From that date "Every house and edifice and lodging shall be chargeable . . . for every hearth and stove within each such house . . . for the sum of two shillings per year." Some of the poorer people were exempted. "No person shall be charged who by reason of his poverty is exempted from the usual taxes, nor any that doth inhabit a house of not greater value than 20/- . . ."

In 1688, the first year of William and Mary, this Act was repealed.

By the figures returned for Beenham we are able to judge the number of houses in the parish and the station to which the taxpayer belonged. The following is the list :—

Constantine Skinner, Esq.	...	...	5	Hearths.
Mr. Goddard (Vicar)	...	...	4	"
Mr. John Perkins (lord of the manor)	...	...	11	"
Mr. Hildesley	...	...	6	"
(In a 2nd list Sir Henry Winchcomb)				
Thomas Aldridge	...	...	5	"
Norris Goulder...	...	...	7	"
John Webb	...	...	6	"
William Webb	...	...	2	"
Peter Wickens	...	...	3	"
Abel Goddard	...	...	3	"
Wyddow Syms	...	...	1	"
John Carter	...	...	3	"
Richard Jennings	...	...	2	"

John Turner	2	Hearths.
William Brookman	3	"
William Spire	1	"
Barton Higgs	2	"
John Parker	1	"
Weddon Thomas	1	"
Michael Banks	1	"

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Signed by me

Tho. Dolman.

Philip Goddard, Vic.

Peter Wickins, Churchwarden.

THE HEARTHES OF THE COTTAGERS.

John Paty	2	Hearths.
Richard Carter... ..	1	"
John Cooper	1	"
Thomas Smallbone	2	"
Margaret Willier	1	"
Ham Weston	1	"
Giles Adnam	1	"
Reginald Carter	1	"
John Ayres	1	"
John Applebee... ..	1	"
Joell Carter	1	"
John Wright	1	"
Thomas Coombes	1	"
Walter Nittingale	2	"
Richard Parker... ..	1	"
Richard Allin	1	"

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John Turner, Constable.

Peter Wickins,

Edward Patey,

Churchwardens.

Geo. Purefoy.

The cottagers returned in a separate list are those who were exempted from the tax.

Mr. John Perkins was the second of the name, owner of Beenham House and lord of that manor, who was churchwarden in 1661. Sir Thomas Dolman, who signed the return, was knighted by Charles II. on the occasion of a visit which the monarch with Queen

Catherine and the Duke of York paid him at Shaw House, near Newbury, as a reward for his zeal during the Civil Wars. During the second battle of Newbury the house was fortified as part of the Royalist lines, and Dolman adopted as his motto

“King and Law

Shouts Dolman of Shaw.”

Two copies of these lists exist of the same date, but in one there is a slight but significant variation. Sir Henry Winchcomb's name is given as being taxed for 6 hearths, but in the other the name is that of Mr. Hildesley. As we have reason to think that the Hildesley family owned the farm now known as Hall Place, which has in recent times belonged to the Hartleys, the descendants of the Winchcombs, it would seem that it was about this time (1663) that the change of ownership took place.

There were in all 88 houses, which in the same proportion as in 1821 shows a population of about 370 persons.

1710. The next date for which we have any recorded statistics is in 1710, and the following notes written by the Vicar, Mr. Horton, in his tithe book, with the following heading:—

[Holdings.]

“The Livings in Beenham Parish computed by the Yard Land (20 acres) according to an account in Mr. Goddard's Book in the Tenure and Occupation of the undermentioned persons about the year 1710.”

1772. Mr. Horton has added, in the margin of this list, the names of the occupiers in 1772.

1772.

(now tenants)

Mr. Carter.	Mrs. Carter, 7 Yds. Lands, then let.
Mr. Iremonger.	Edward Patey, 7 Yds. Lands.
Mrs. Gleed.	Mr. Berrington for Gennings, $2\frac{1}{2}$.
Mrs. Gleed.	John Golders or Brromhall, $2\frac{1}{2}$.
Mrs. Gleed.	Richard Awbery for Carter's Copyhold, 2.
G. W.	Do. for his freeland, $2\frac{1}{4}$.
Mr. Robinson.	Late Jno. Paty of the Green, $1\frac{1}{4}$.
Jno. Butler.	Richard Butler for Knight's Living, $1\frac{1}{4}$.
Robert Webb.	Robert Turner's.
T. Smalbone.	Hugh Smalbone for Mrs. Eldridge's, 4.
Jno. Butler.	Barton Higg's Copyhold, 1.
Jno. Knapp.	Geo. Webb, sen., for Webb's Copyhold, 3.
	Late Joiner's.

T. Smalbone.	Paise's, $2\frac{1}{2}$.
T. Smalbone.	Pottinger's, 2.
	Geo. Webb, jun., for Mrs. Hopson (the new Orchards, etc.).
Mrs. Inglefield.	Jno. Simms, 2.
T. Smalbone.	Jno. Eed, for Sir Ch. Inglefields, $4\frac{1}{2}$.
R. Webb.	Robert Webb, $2\frac{1}{2}$.
	Jno. Wickens for the Church House.
T. Smalbone.	Thos. Chamberlain, $1/8$.
T. Smalbone.	Jno. Lawrence for Richd. Parker's, $1/4$.
T. Smalbone.	Do. for late Jno. Parker's, 1.
T. Smalbone.	Dennis Tayler, $\frac{1}{2}$.
W. Robinson.	Thos. Willier.
Frankum.	Mr. Richd. Tull, 2 acres of meadow, $1/4$.
Wm. Beding.	Thos. Broughton, meadow and field land, $1/4$.

1742. A second list of an earlier date than that in the margin above is on the opposite page with this heading :—

“A list of the principal Estates in the Parish of Beenham (or at least some of them) together with the names of the principal occupiers, October 11th, 1742.”

Richd. Iremonger.	Occupier of Mr. Parker's Farm, formerly Hildesley's, also Mr. Berrington's formerly Gennings, also Golder's, formerly Toovey's.
Wo. Frankum.	Occupier of the Living formerly called Carter's.
Wo. Carter.	Occupier of Beenham Farm, also her freehold ; her tenants Jno. Turner and Jno. Frood.
Geo. Webb	Occupier of Webb's Living.
Mr. Hobson's	Estate, occupied by himself, Mr. Doughty and Geo. Webb.
Richd. Awbery	Occupier of his own, formerly called Norris Golder's.
Peter Applebee.	Of Woolhampton, occupier of Grassfields, formerly Norris Golder's.
John Lawrence.	Occupier of Mr. Girle's Farm, formerly Sir C. Englefield's, also Jno. Simms ; also the Improprate Tithes.

Hugh Smallbone.	Occupier of Eldridge's, Paisey's, and Pottinger's.
Wo. Wm. Wickens and	Thos. Willier, Hugh Smallbone, and the successors of Henry Gorham, occupiers of Parker's Livings.
Robert Webb.	Occupier of the estate called Wicken's Living, also of Turner's.
Richd. Butler.	Occupier of Barton Higg's and Knight's Livings.
Dennis Taylor.	Occupier of part of Mr. Girle's, formerly Sir C. Inglefield's.
Thos. Chamberlain.	Occupier of part do., formerly do.
John Knapp.	Formerly Joiner's.
Mr. Homer.	Occupier of Tull's meadow ground.
Richd. Applebee, of	Bucklebury, occupier of Broughton's land.
Wo. Carter.	Occupier of Mr. Deane's woodland.

In these lists we find several names which lasted for many generations. The Carters, who owned lands of their own, as well as being occupiers or tenants of Beenham Farm, as their ancestors had been under the Abbot of Reading; the Iremongers, occupiers of Parker's Farm, formerly owned by the Hildesley family, and in later and until quite recent times the property of the Hartlyes of Bucklebury; George Webb, occupier of his own living or holding; Richard Awbery, then living on his own farm, which still bears his name though now belonging to the Rev. Thomas Bushnell; Sir Charles Englefield, of the dispossessed family of the estate of the same name, who owned several farms in the parish; and, finally, Mr. Girle, of whose tenure in Beenham so much has already been said.

The first census of the population of England and Scotland was made in 1801, and has been taken every ten years since then under the authority of Parliament by the Registrar-General.

The following are the figures for Beenham for

1801—Persons, 381; inhabited houses, 70; uninhabited, 2; families, 73.

1811—Persons, 317. (This was the year of the Enclosure Act, when the number of freeholders is mentioned elsewhere.)

1821—Persons, 437; houses, 80, occupied by 91 families, 58 in agriculture, 21 in trades and handicrafts, and 12 not included.

1831—Persons, 360; families, 91.

Leaving a gap we come to

1891—Persons, 517 (an increase of 157).

1901—Persons, 508.

1911—Persons, 527.

At the present time—1913—there are in the parish 15 houses, including farmhouses, 100 cottages, two inns, and one beer shop. The following is the list of freeholders :—

Captain Waring.	Mr. Warde.
Mr. Draper Strange.	Mr. Alfred Palmer.
G.W.R.	Miss Oldbury.
J. T. Strange and Co.	Mr. J. H. Benyon.
Major Darby Griffith.	Mr. W. Keepe.
J. T. Strange.	Mr. W. Warde.
Mr. C. E. L. Freeling.	Mr. Warman.
Mr. F. Johnson.	Mr. J. Beesley.
Mr. Burne.	Mrs. Wheeler.
Mr. Layley.	Mr. Christopher Strange.
The Rev. T. H. Bushnell.	The Vicar and Churchwardens.
The Vicar.	

Sandhurst, Berks.

*By Major G. A. Kempthorne, Royal Army
Medical Corps.*

(Continued from page 124, Vol. 22.)

COALPIT COPSE. So marked in modern ordnance map. "Coleryden," apparently referring to a neighbouring enclosure, is mentioned in Elizabeth's reign.*

COCK-A-DOBBY. Award Map, 1817.

COXES. Near the junction of the Yateley mill and Finchampstead roads. Rental, 1498, has "Cokkis," "Cokkis-place." Connected probably with the Cock family of Yateley.

* Court of Augmentation, Proc. 15/25.

- DAWNEY MEAD. On the Blackwater, next to Perrymore. Survey, 1549.
- DIPNELL GREEN. Near the S. end of Albion Road. Award Map, 1817.
- EAST MILL LANE. O.M. Darby Green Lane (see Blackwater R.). The course of the old mill stream can be traced. In Elizabeth's reign there was a cart bridge here.† Norden, 1607, marks the ford but no mill. In 1567 Richard Ruges held a messuage with a mill for malting in Yateley, parcel of the land of Richard Geale. This was probably the site. East Mill existed in 1282.
- EDGBARROW HILL. Norden, 1607. The A.S. "ecg," modern "edge."
- FISHCROFT. Situation doubtful. "Fisher's copse's is on the Finchampstead boundary just west of Beech Hill. Survey, 1498.
- GREENLANDS. Probably near Green Mill, which, according to the bounds of Finchampstead bailiwick, must have stood near Yateley bridge. Survey, 1498. A bridge for horses stood here in 1586.† In 1289 John atte Greene sold a mill in Sandhurst to another of the same name.‡
- HALL GROVE. A field of oaks. Probably near East Mill Ford. Survey, 1549.
- HANKHAMS. Where the "Fox and Hounds" now is. Award Map, 1817. Connected probably with the Hannington or Hannykin family, under-keepers of Bigshot Rails.
- HARRIES MOOR. Survey, 1549, "Harrys more." On the river at the S. end end of East Mill Lane.
- HONES LANE. The lane south of Longdown Lodge. "Le hone," Survey, 1498. Hones was an inclosure where the ale stores now stand. The stone from which the name came, probably a large sarsen, has been removed.
- HURT HILL. A spur of Longdown. Now the site of the house called "Forest End." The name of the adjacent house, "Hart's Leap," gives the commonly accepted origin. Norden, 1607.
- HURT HEDGES. On the waste. Swainmote Court Roll, 29 Eliz. This may possibly have become Whortleberry Hill in the O.M.
- HOMESTALL. Near Sandhurst Lodge farm buildings. Award Map, 1817.
- HIFF GREEN. Where the Finchampstead road enters the parish. Award Map, 1817.
- HOWARDS. The forge in the village street. Parish books, 1738. Joseph Paice had a blacksmith's shop here in 1796. Lord Howard of Effingham, the Admiral, was chief Forester of the bailiwick and owned land there. There may possibly be some connection.
- INWOOD MEAD. Near "Coxes." Parish books, 1738. Name derived from an inhabitant.
- LODGE HILLS. Norden, 1607. The site of the Asylum.
- LONG DOWN. Norden, 1607.
- LONG VERE. Award Map, 1817. [Bearu or bearo—a wood, wooded hill or swine pasture, which explains the names Beer, Bear Alston, Rockbeare, etc. Isaac Taylor, "English village names"]. The place is along the railway line east of Sunny Rest.

† Swainmote Court Roll, 1586.

‡ Feet of Fines. Ber, 17 Ed. 1.

- LURIE MEADOW. Award Map, 1817. North of the road near the R.M.C. boundary.
- LIME MEADOW. Award Map, 1817. Near Snaprails.
- MOOR'S GATE. Award Map, 1817. Where the Owlsmoor road joins the Blackwater road.
- MOORS, THE. The name applied to the Blackwater meadows. Moor—"mere" or marsh.
- MILLARD'S MEAD. At East Mill Ford. John Millard tenant of Cave's farm, 1743. Award Map, 1817.
- MILL MEAD. Opposite Yateley mill. Survey, 1549.
- OLD FARM FIELDS. The road called "the Broadway" runs through them. Award Map, 1817.
- OWLSMOOR. Name given to the hamlet about 1870. "Owle mead." Church rate, 1739.
- PARSONAGE. A field adjoining the church, probably the site of the original chaplain's house. There was a cottage belonging to the church here in James the First's reign. Church rate, 1739.
- PERKS. Three fields where the old water lane joins the Finchampstead road. Award Map, 1817.
- PERRY, PERRYMORE, PERRYMEAD. The name was applied to two fields, one between Perry Bridge and Ambarrow Farm, the other on the river south of the village street. "Purie" subsidy roll, Ed. J., "Perrie" do. I Ed. iii.
- POST FIELD. Next to "Long Vere." Award Map, 1817.
- ROUNDABOUT. Behind the Wellington Arms. Assessment, 1787.
- SANDHURST. The word means "the wood in the sand." Earliest reference, Pipe rolls 21 Hen. I. (1175). Possibly Sandhurst farm marks the original site.
- SCOTLAND HILL. Award Map, 1817.
- SHACKLEFORD'S GREEN. Award Map, 1817. Opposite Sunny Rest lodge gate. A Yateley farmer of this name held a tenement here in 1739.
- SHELBRED HILLS. Norden, 1607. Called Shelburn Hills in the 18th century.
- SMALLBROOK MOOR. Norden, 1607. Smallbrook Bottom is at the bottom of The Master's Wood.
- TURNER'S PIGTLE. Award Map, 1817. Land leased to Michael Turner by the Crown, 1593. A field opposite the rectory.
- VELDRY CORNER. A point now in the park. The parish boundary makes an angle here. It marks the site of an old inclosure called "Felde Rede" in survey, 1549. Award Map, 1817.
- WATERLANDS. A field belonging to Bannister's charity. It lies below the church. Survey, 1498.
- WEST MOOR. On the river. Partly in Finchampstead. Survey, 1549. The West family had land in both parishes in the thirteenth century.
- WHITE HILL. Apparently on the side of the Wokingham road opposite Ambarrow. Whitynhull. Survey, 1498.
- WHITINGS MEADOW. A man of this name had a farm in the parish in 1691.
- WYNDENERSHE FIELD. Survey, 1498. "Wydnershe field," survey 1549.

"Witness field," survey 1613. The name is not found later. One of the common fields..

WINDMILL STEM. O.M. Cæsar's Camp is called Windmill Hill Fort in Norden, 1607. A round barrow (?) through which the northern boudary of the parish runs.

REFERENCES.

1469. Rental revised by Brother John Bury in the time of Thomas Pigot, Abbot of St. Peter's Monastery at Chertsey, the 14th year of King Henry VII.
[Chertsey Cartulary KR Mis. Bks. No. 25].
1549. Rental of the King's land in Sandhurst made by Roger Amyce Surveyor in the 3rd year of King Edward VI.
[Misc. Bks. Land Rev. Vol. 187].
1607. Survey of Windsor Forest by John Norden.
[Harleian MSS.].
1613. Survey of Windsor Forest.
[Misc. Bks. Land Rev. No. 199].
1817. Sandhurst parish inclosure award map.

A Surbey of Wallingford in 1550.

By the Rev. J. E. Field.

(Continued from Vol. 22, page 84).

Folio 6. Fysshe strete on the east side beginning at its northern end.

- (1) John Egerton holds at will one tenement there abutting on the High Street towards the north, and on a tenement of Thomas Maynard towards the east, and the street called Fysshe Strete towards the west, and a tenement belonging to the free chapel of St. John towards the south, and pays yearly to the chapel iijs. [*Note in margin, 1561, with Sparhawke for repairs.*]
- (2) Thomas Philippes holds at will one tenement there, and pays yearly iijs. [probably to the free chapel].
- (3) Richard Clerke [*corrected, 1561, xxvs. iijd.* Margery the

wife of Richard Clack, and John Clack, freely by charter] holds one tenement there with a little way (*cum parva via*) adjoining, late in the tenure of William Yong, now in the occupation of Thomas Maynard, and pays vs. iij*d*.

- (4) Ralph Broke, clerk, rector of the Church of St. Peter there [*corrected*, 1561, iiijs. The same Margery and John hold by indenture of the Wardens of the parish church of Blessed Mary-the-less given on the feast of St. John, 13 Henry viij. for a term of 99 years] one parcel of land there which was lately the cemetery of the so-called Sancte Maries the less behind the tenement of the said Richard Clerke [1561, Clack], and pays i*d*. [*Add*, 1561, besides xij*d*. to the said parish church].

The entire line of the east side of Fish Street as given in the Survey reaches from the High Street on the north to the Mill on the south, and evidently includes the side of the Market Place and of the other open space which is now called St. Leonard's Square, but was known to the older inhabitants as the Upper Green. There are in all thirty-five holdings, of which the first four have now been described, the fourth being behind the third. The name of Fish Street was changed to St. Mary's Street within living memory. The fish-market was in this street in 1292.*

It has been already noted (Vol. XXII., p. 47) that the first tenement described here, held by John Egerton, was not on the line of High Street but stood a short distance up Fish Street, the angle between the two streets being occupied by a burial-ground. Behind it on the east was a tenement held by Thomas Maynard, which would appear to have opened upon Wood Street and to have had on its north side the shops or stalls already described in High Street (Vol. XXII., p. 48).

The next tenement in Fish Street, held by Thomas Philippes, belonged to the Free Chapel of St. John's Hospital, and the note of 1561 relates to Robert Sperhawke to whom this was conveyed by its last master, Richard a Deane, as stated afterwards on folio 12 of the Survey.

The third tenement, owned previously by William Yong and occupied in 1550 by Thomas Maynard, was then the property of Richard Clerke or Clack, but in 1561 had become the freehold of Margery his widow and of John Clack who was perhaps their son.

* Hedges, *Hist. of Wallingford*, I. 365.

Along the side of it was a "little way," presumably leading into Wood Street, and behind the house was some ground which had been the churchyard of St. Mary-the-less and had come into the possession of the Clack family in or before 1561, having belonged in 1550 to Ralph Broke, the rector of St. Peter's.

We come here to a point which can be distinctly identified. The present parish of St. Peter extends up both sides of Fish Street as far as an entry under the White Hart leading through to Wood Street. This was doubtless the boundary of the parish of St. Mary-the-less which was united with that of St. Peter in 1374. Thus the entry corresponds precisely with the account which the Survey gives of a "little way" belonging to Clack's house and passing alongside it, and therefore also passing along the edge of the churchyard which lay behind it. The White Hart is a house of considerable antiquity, with original gables and ornamental pendants having Tudor roses over them; and there is a handsome carved doorway over the entry. It is possible that the Clacks built it.

The name of this family, still found in the neighbourhood, is interesting. The manner in which it appears in the Survey suggests that it is a corruption of Clerk. It became prominent in the town two centuries later when the three beautiful daughters of Thomas Clack, landlord of The Bell (now The Lamb), married into aristocratic families.*

The site of the Church of St. Mary-the-less was known to Skermer who wrote his *Antiquities of Wallingford* shortly before his death in 1716. He says: "The Church stood where Mr. Thompson, a baker, now lives; the churchyard now Mr. John Goodwin's back-side: and in digging of a cellar the bricklayers of the town say they have dug through a heap of bones." We may presume that John Goodwin occupied the White Hart. Mr. Hedges wrongly says that Skermer placed the Church in High Street.† But it is probable that nothing but the stalls already mentioned stood between it and the High Street. In the thirteenth century it was called St. Mary-de-Stalles from the stalls erected in the churchyard.‡ The tenement mentioned in the Survey as Thomas Maynard's, at the back of John Egerton's, may have been on the site of the Church, as was Thompson's in Skermer's time. The ground to the north-west of it, at the angle of the two streets, where interments

* Hedges, II., 409.

† Ibid. II., 412.

‡ Ibid. I., 345.

have been discovered, was perhaps taken for this purpose when additional burial-ground was needed.

The Survey enables us to trace clearly the extent of the parish of St. Mary-the-less which now forms part of the parish of St. Peter. It includes the quadrangular block, in which its Church stood, bounded by Fish Street, High Street, Wood Street, and the White Hart entry, together with the line of houses on the opposite side of Fish Street from the same point ; and it may be presumed also that it included the north side of High Street from Castle Street to a point opposite Wood Street, since this also is in the parish of St. Peter.

(To be continued.)

The Family of Palmer of Wokingham, and Rye, Sussex.

By the Rev. J. Holford Scott.

THE above mentioned family is of very ancient extraction, being representatives of the families of Symonds and Underwood, who from the evidences of exceedingly early deeds were domiciled at Woodcrithe and Fritheland in Zermeydon juxta Lukeley all situated "infra Parochiam de Wokingham."

The first deed brought to our notice by Gulielmus Ryley, "The Lancaster Herald," is without date and presumably one earlier than the first dated deed of 1309. The pedigree of the Symonds family previous to its absorption into the family of Palmer appears to be as follows : (1) Johannes Symond de Woodcrithe. (2) His son Johannes Symond de Woodcrithe (2nd Ed. II. 1309). (3) A son of the last Johannes, another Johannes de Woodcrithe (22nd Edward III. 1349). This Johannes had an only daughter and heiress, Agneta Symond, who married Robert Palmer of Wokingham. From this union sprang a son, Robert Palmer, who formed an alliance with Agneta, daughter and heiress of Johannes Underwood, Junior, the son of Johannes Underwood who was alive in the 42nd year of Edward III. 1369. Ryley in reference to the deeds, a list of which is given, says "I have faithfully examined the

genealogy and proofs as they, depicted and outlined, formerly existed, and I have judged them to be in accordance with the evidences aforesaid written."

There are in all fifteen deeds, and it is from an inspection of these that Ryley gives his verdict that Richard Palmer of Wokingham in the County of Berks, Gentleman, is lineally descended from Richard Palmer otherwise called Underwood late of Wokingham, who descended from Robert Palmer that married Agnes the daughter and heir of John Symonds of Woodcrich (*sic*) in the Parish of Wokingham aforesaid as by the evidences may appear.

One deed is of especial interest and importance, viz., that in which it is stated that "William Palmer de Wokingham was Valectus Dominae Reginae Angliæ, 13th Henry IV." The Queen to whom reference is here made was Joan, daughter of Charles II. King of Navarre, and widow of John de Montfort Duke of Brittany. She was the second wife of Henry IV. of England. The office of Valectus at that period testifies to the position of the Palmer family, for the term Valectus had not then fallen into disrepute, and the duty of attendance on a royal personage which accrued to that office was generally discharged by Esquires or younger sons of good family of the Armigerom class. The writer may perhaps be allowed here to ask a question: "Had this branch of the Palmer family sprung from the oldest established family of that name, *i.e.*, the Palmers of Compton Scorfen, Warwick, whose arms were 'chequy argent and azure, a chief gules?'" The first member of that family recorded in Harleian MSS. 1144, 5819, and Lansdowne MS. 1233, was Henricus le Palmer circiter 1100. Was this Henry akin to the Earls Warren, and of Surrey, as the arms of the latter were chequy or, and azure? When Sir Edward Bysshe, Knight, the Clarencieux King-at-arms gave a grant of arms dated 20th February, 1664, to Richard Palmer, he assigned to him "Chequy or, and sable on a chief gules two mullets of the first." These arms were evidently based on the ancient arms of the Palmers of Compton Scorfen. Perhaps some reader who is versed in old documents such as "The Inquisitions," may be able to establish a relationship between the families. It is a problem, the solution of which lies outside the pale of the knowledge of the writer of this sketch.

On November 15th, 1661, Richard Palmer of Wokingham, bought from Sir Richard Harrison of Hurst, the Manor of Finchampstead East Court for the sum of £4250. It may be apposite to note that at this time another branch of the Palmer family of

Wokingham was flourishing at Rye, Sussex. Richard Palmer of Wokingham who married Elizabeth, daughter and subsequently heiress of John Ball of Barkham, had two sons, John Palmer afterwards of Rye, and Richard Palmer the father of Richard Palmer of East Court. Elias Ashmole in his Visitation of Berks 1664-65, places in the pedigree John before Richard, and it may be therefore presumed that John was the elder son. The same authority states that John resided at Rye and married Elizabeth daughter of Cary of Lewes, but it is proposed to give further particulars of this branch a little later.

The marriage of Richard Palmer of East Court (b. 1611, d. 1670) with Maria, only daughter of Oliver Fish of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, exercised an important influence upon the ultimate disposal of the family property.

(To be continued.)

Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.

THE Editors express the earnest hope that a larger number of Correspondents will avail themselves of these pages, and thus help those responsible for the publication of this Journal to extend its usefulness. There are several Queries—inserted in the Journals for 1916—still remaining unanswered. It is hoped that some readers may solve them.

Note.

ACHESTER CAMP, HINTON WALDRIST.—About a quarter of a mile east of the turn to Hinton Waldrist, on the road from Faringdon to Oxford, is the small rectangular earthwork called Achester. It is rectangular in shape, 24 yards wide, 90 yards long, in low-lying ground, and in a copse of oak trees. There two entrances, and no traces of walls, foundations, barrows, or other earthworks are visible. Cherbury Camp at Pusey is the nearest earthwork (camp).—G. W. B. HUNTINGFORD, Stanford-in-the-Dale, Berks.

Queries.

IN a deed of 1620 I find mention of "Ly Farm," Co. Berks. In what parish is this place situated? I do not know any work of reference that would tell me. It may by these days have become Lee or Leigh Farm.—I. HARVEY BLOMS, Whitchurch Rectory, Stratford-on-Avon.

MILTON CHURCH.—In the last number of the "Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal," p. 106, in the description of Milton Church, I mentioned some old glass in a north window, which included a figure of a mitred Abbot with crozier and holding an indistinct object in the right hand. The following inscription was on a scroll: "ss (should be E) gelsinus Abbas Aug.," and below "A^o 1059." I stated I was unable to identify the figure, but have since found that one Egelsinus was appointed Abbot of the great monastery of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, in 1059. He appears not to have carried on certain new work, which had been undertaken by his predecessor, nor to have been in any way remarkable. When William the Conqueror, after deposing Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, and other leading Saxon Ecclesiastics, made enquiry as to the affairs of St. Augustine's, it was found that Egelsinus had left the Abbey and fled to Denmark. Why is he represented here? The glass is not in its original situation, as the Church has been practically re-built, and I think it is not known where this came from. The date is probably early 16th century. The same question may be asked as to the Flemish inscription and merchant's mark of Peeter Crossbeecke, which occurs in the same window, and about whom nothing seems to be known. Is there any connection between the two?—CHARLES E. KEYSER.

Replies.

CHAMBERLAYNE FAMILY.—I notice that Mr. R. T. Fynmore made enquiries about the Chamberlayne family (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Arch. Journal, vol. xxi., No. 3, p. 96, 1915). I jotted down the following when visiting Swalcliffe Church, Oxon, I think in April, 1905. On the old oak door of the principal entrance into the Church, on the south side, was inscribed;—

T. H. O. CHAMBERLAYNE.

Armiger D. ADO.

1639.

with the arms gu. an escutcheon ar. within an orle of cinquefoils or. crest a demi peacock. The Church was re-built in 1876.—F. C. HALHED, Hollycot, Binfield.

EDWIN GRIFFIN.—Under the head of enquiries I have seen: "Wanted by M. S. Thorpe, 49, Kitchener Road, East Finchley, N. (Vol. xxi., No. 4, p. 124) particulars as to the relations or connections of Edwin Griffin, treasurer of Lincolns Inn, 1698." In April, 1905, I was directed to enquire of Dr. Griffen, The Green, Southbar, Banbury, particulars of Banbury. He was, I believe, an antiquary and collector. Though it is some years ago now since my visit he would most likely be still a resident, and might possibly have heard of the treasurer. Some ancestors of mine lived in Banbury long ago (see Beasley's "History of Banbury").—F. C. HALHED, Hollycot, Binfield.

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Vol. 23. No. 2.]

[JULY, 1917.

Subscription 6/- per annum; Separate Numbers, 2/- each.



THE
Berks, Bucks & Oxon
Archæological Journal.



Published in connection with the following Societies:—

The Berkshire Archæological Society.
The Newbury District Field Club.
The Oxford Architectural and Historical Society.
The Oxfordshire Archæological Society.
The Oxford University Antiquarian Society.
The Ladies' Brass-Rubbing Society of Oxford.

THE JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

EDITED BY

REV. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.

*Rector of Barkham; Fellow of R. Hist. Soc.; Hon. Sec. of
the Berks Archæological Society.*

AND

JOHN HAUTENVILLE COPE.

Reading:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS BY C. H. SLAUGHTER.
London: ELLIOT STOCK, 62, Paternoster Row.

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The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

Notes on the Churches of Tyfield, Besselsleigh, Appleton, Cumnor, Wootton, and Sunningwell.

By Charles E. Keyser, M.A., F.S.A., President.

COMMUNICATED TO THE BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
MARCH 29th, 1917.

(Continued from page 8.)

On the north side of the nave to the east of the arches opening to the aisle, and attached to the north wall, is a somewhat rare piece of sculptured stone work. Parker in the Ecclesiastical Topography calls it a credence table, and when his notes were taken in 1850, it seems to have been at the east end of the Chancel. It has a flat stone slab, with three quatrefoils and a shield on the front, and is supported on an octagonal stem with panelling on the front portion. It is 3 ft. 4½ ins. in height, and the upper table is 1 ft. 6 ins. in breadth, by 1 ft. 8 ins. in depth. It is a good example of Perpendicular work of the second half of the 15th century. It is well illustrated on plate 39 of the Glossary of Gothic Architecture and is dated 1500, and in the Text (published in 1845) it is stated (p. 115 note) as having been "lately removed from its original position in the north-east corner and turned into an altar." There is another stone credence table at St. Cross, Winchester.

There are four arches between the nave and north aisle, the two eastern opening into the chantry of St. John the Baptist, founded by John Golafré the younger in 1442. The arches have two recessed orders and are supported on octagonal columns with well moulded capitals, and are no doubt part of John Golafré's new work. The screens enclosing the chapel, and some very interesting stalls with rich poppyheads were destroyed by the fire, but new screens of good design have been introduced. There is an illustration of the Screens and Stall work in the Glossary of Gothic Architecture, plate 128.

It is uncertain how far the north aisle is John Golafré's work. The north doorway (already described) dates from soon after 1200, and there is one Decorated window on the north side. It has been suggested that these were moved from the original north wall of the nave, though on the other hand, there may have been an aisle or chapel here, before Sir John Golafré founded his chantry. The nave arcade, the east and west windows and the large square-headed window on the north are of course his work. In the south wall near the east end is a small plain piscina, and here is the blocked-up doorway to the rood-loft staircase. There is also some early masonry here, probably a relic of the early 13th century Church. On the south-east face of the east respond of the arcade is a pretty little canopied niche with pedestal for an image.

Against the north wall is the monument of John Golafré, the founder in 1442. It has been much injured by the fire, and it is in contemplation to restore it. It is a large table tomb with the effigy of the knight on the upper slab, and a cadaver or emaciated figure, "memento mori," below. He is portrayed in plate armour with bare head resting on a pillow, supported by an angel on either side. The arms are broken away, and his feet, also much mutilated, rest on two dogs, an embattled cornice is carried round the verge of the upper table, which is supported on delicate angle pilaster shafts with graduated buttresses attached, and with a similar shaft on the south face dividing it into two open compartments. There is a shield, now effaced, at the top of each shaft. Within this enclosure lies the cadaver, or emaciated figure, as a representation of the knight after death. The effigy is on a raised slab, and has the shroud or winding sheet starting from a flat cap on the head, and spread out beneath the body. The figure is very carefully sculptured, but unfortunately the right arm is broken off.

These cadaver effigies are not common, and mostly of the 15th

century, and were no doubt introduced in accordance with the wishes of the deceased to emphasize the moral lesson, that however great a man might be in his life time, after death he could carry none of his splendour away with him. Most of the examples commemorate distinguished ecclesiastics, notably :—

Archbishop Chichele, at Canterbury Cathedral.

Bishop Fox and Bishop Gardiner, at Winchester Cathedral.

Bishop Beckington, at Wells Cathedral.

Bishop Fleming, at Lincoln Cathedral.

Abbot Wakeman, at Tewkesbury Abbey.

Thomas Huxey, Treasurer, at York Minster.

Thomas Heywood, Dean, at Lichfield Cathedral.

William Sylke, sub-Chanter, and	} at Exeter Cathedral.
William Parkhouse, Canon,	

William Weston, Prior, at St. James, Clerkenwell.

Robert Johnson, sub-Dean, at All Saints, Derby.

Sir Sampson Maverell, at Tideswell, Derbyshire.

John Baret, at St. Mary's, Bury St. Edmunds.

Man and Wife (late), at Denardiston, Suffolk.

We also find on the splendid monument of the Duchess of Suffolk at Ewelme Church, Oxfordshire, the effigy of the Duchess in her robes on the table of the tomb, and her emaciated figure in winding sheet enclosed within the space below. Other examples of these cadaver effigies are recorded at St. Saviour's, Southwark ; St. John's College, Cambridge ; Feniton Church, Devonshire ; St. Peter's Church, Bristol ; Tenby Church (? Tully, Bishop of St. David's) ; and in the wall at St. Peter's Church, Drogheda. At St. Stephen's Church, near Canterbury, the effigy of Lord Chief Baron, Roger Marwood, is portrayed as a cadaver lying on a mattress, this being a post-Reformation example.

The example at Tideswell most closely parallels our monument at Fyfield, as the only other instance of a soldier being thus commemorated ; though only the cadaver is represented, the flat slab above not now having the effigy of the knight in armour. He died in 1462. Associated with the cadaver of William Sylke at Exeter Cathedral (he died in 1508) is the following abbreviated morality : " Sum quod eris, fueramque quod es, pro me precor, ora." " I am what thou wilt be, and I was what thou art. I beseech you pray for me." It is known that the monument of Archbishop Chichele was erected in his life time, and it is probable that most of the examples above cited were designed before the decease of the indi-

viduals they commemorated. At Ashby Folville Church, Leicestershire, is an alabaster slab to a lady with an incised emaciated figure commemorating the deceased. Several letters on this subject will be found in "Notes and Queries," Series I., Vols. V. and VI.

There are numerous examples among the brasses, which will be referred to in connection with the instance at Appleton. One, however, at Sherborne St. John in Hampshire, specially illustrates our subject. Here is a portraiture of Bernard Brokas d. 1488, kneeling before a cross, and below is his emaciated figure in a shroud. In the crypt at St. Paul's Cathedral is the effigy of Dr. Donne in his shroud, and there is a record of the manner in which during his life time he posed for this special portraiture. He died in the year 1631.

But to resume our account of the Church, on the north wall to the east of the Golafré monument is a stone bracket for image with a series of shields round the upper face. There is also a mural tablet with the arms properly blazoned of Perrot impaling those of his wife Anne, daughter and heiress of George and Mary Dale. On the floor are numerous ledger stones to members of the White family, amongst them (1) to Jane daughter of John Malet, and wife of Charles White, she died in 1661; (2) to Charles White, died 1662, and of Thomas White, died 1720, aged 30. His epitaph informs us that he was

"A Gentleman of a courteous and civil
deportment, and of an obliging friendly
temper, a true lover of his Country &
of y^e established Church, an humble
penitent before God. and a charitable
benefactor to men, of which his
bountifull legacy to the poor
of this Parish will be
a lasting testimony."

The present font has a modern bowl, but round the stem are a series of canopies of Decorated character. The old circular bowl and other fragments are now in the Churchyard, near the west end of the Church.*

A drive of about two miles through Tubney, with a modern

* The Churches of Fyfield, Appleton and Besselsleigh were visited by the Newbury District Field Club in 1911, and that of Cumnor in 1907, and a short description will be found in the Proceedings, Vol. V., pp. 143—5 and 191—4.

Church and a noble elm, will bring us to Besselsleigh or Besilsleigh as it is variously called. The Parish which both in area and population is one of the smallest in the County, is of some importance from the distinguished families who owned and resided in it. At the time of the Doomsday Survey, Leie, as it was then called, belonged to the Abbot and Convent of Abingdon. Lysons states that the Manor belonged anciently to the family of Legh, and that it came by marriage to the Besils family in 1350. From the Besils it passed to the Fettiplaces, the owners of many important properties in Berkshire, and the adjoining counties. They in their turn sold it in 1624 to William Lenthall, the Speaker in the Long Parliament, of Burford Abbey, Oxfordshire, in whose family it still remains.

Leland in his Itinerary, vol. vii., gives a voluminous note on this place as follows :—"Bleselles Legh a litle Village is a 3 Mile from Hinkesey Fery in the Highe way from Oxford to Ferendune, *alias* Farington. At this Legh be very fayre Pastures and Woods. The Blesells hathe bene Lords of it syns the tyme of Edwarde the First or afore, and there they dyd enhabite. The Place is all of Stone, and stondithe at the West End of the Paroche Church. Blesells were Lords also of Rodecote apon the Ryver of Isis by Ferendune, wher hathe been a stronge Pile, and now a Mansion Place. The Blesells cam out of Province in Fraunce, and were Men of Activitey in Feates of Armes, as it apperithe in Monuments at Legh how he fawght in Listes with a strange Knight that chalengyd hym, at the whiche Deade, the Kynge and Quene at that tyme of England were present. The Blesells were countyd to have Pocessyons of 400 Marks by the Yere. The last Heire Male of them was a lyve in hominum memoria. Legh and Rodecote cam by marriage of an Heire Generall of the Blesells onto Fetiplace."

Mr. H. W. Taunt, of Oxford, in his notes on the Manor, gives most of the above quotation, and adds the following :—"Sir Peter Besells in his will (1424) bequeathed lands for the maintenance of the bridges at Abingdon and Culham, for which he had previously given the stone to build, and curiously leaves £600 as a fund from which to make restitution for any injury done by himself or his ancestors to any one, and specifies that if the money is not required it shall be given to the poor. His body he left to be buried in the Church of the Preaching Friars in St. Ebbes, Oxford, to whom he gave £120 to make six windows in their north aisle. The manor in 1516 was in the possession of William Besils, and if, as it appears,

that name is the same as the early Saxon owner Bestle, it implies a connection with one family for some 900 years."

Mr. Taunt adds a further note on the house as follows :—"The old mansion was a fine building forming a quadrangle, and in the Speaker's time was visited by Cromwell, and other leading men, who are said to have been frequent guests. In pulling down the old building a room or cell was discovered which had evidently been used as a place of concealment, it was in the basement of the house, but the only access to it was by a chair lowered by pulleys from the top of the building. It was probably a Priest's Hole, but the tradition of the neighbourhood makes Cromwell to have been concealed in it. The large well-known picture of Sir Thomas More and his family was one of the treasures of this house. The present Manor House is modern, Elizabethan in style, and stands in a pleasant situation in the park. It contains some of the gems from the Priory at Burford, among them being the Pardon granted by Charles II. to Speaker Lenthall."

In Ashmole's "History and Antiquities of Berkshire," in his account of Bessils-Leigh, after mentioning that one of the Besils was High Sheriff in 1431, and Besil Fetiplace in 1583, we find the following quaint note :—

"Many years after it was purchased by that weak Tool of a Rebellious Parliament (William Lenthall Esq., Speaker), who at his Death was an eminent Instance of sincere Repentance, when he signed a Recantation and Abhorrence of his former Errors, which in some Measure may be rather imputed to his Folly, than any ill Design : From him in the Third Generation, it came to the present Possessor, and Lord of the Manor, John Lenthall, Esq. ; In this House was preserved a Picture of Sir Thomas More, K^t, and his Family drawn by the Hand of the celebrated Hans Holbein, which is now removed to his Seat, the Priory of Burford in Oxfordshire, and is by length of Time, and Negligence, much decayed."

The mansion appears to have been partly re-built by Speaker Lenthall. Nothing now remains except one of the stone gateposts and a small portion of the offices.

The Church (Fig. 25), dedicated to St. Laurence, stands in an isolated situation to the west of the Faringdon and Oxford Road, and is commensurate with the size of this small parish. It is a plain aisleless structure, with nave, having a western bellcote (Fig. 26) and south porch, and Chancel of the same height and width as the nave. Of the original Norman edifice, probably the lower part of

the walls, with the south doorway, and piscina in the Chancel remain. About the year 1270 the east and west windows (Fig. 27) were inserted, and rather later the Decorated window (Fig. 28) on the north of the Chancel was introduced. The other windows (Fig. 29) are all square-headed of late 15th century date. The Church, according to the inscription over the entrance into the Chancel, "was restored in the yeare MDCXXXII., and repaired by the Honourable William Lenthall, Master of the Rolls, MDCLVII." This is the inscription as given by Ashmole. The present inscription is somewhat different, and runs as follows:—"This Church was beautified and repaired in the year 1632, by the Honourable William Lenthall, Master of the Rolls and Speaker of the Parliament of England, and again by his descendant William John Lenthall in 1788." These dates do not suggest a very careful treatment of the ancient structure. It was again restored in 1888 by E. K. Lenthall, Esq., the then Lord of the Manor.

Let us now endeavour to describe the principal architectural features in the Church, starting from the interior of the Chancel (Fig. 30). The east window has three trefoil-headed lancets (Fig. 31) within a containing arch enriched with a cinquefoiled fringe. On the north side is a two-light Decorated window with quatrefoil in the head, and on the south is a two-light square-headed late Perpendicular window. In the east splay is a small niche, and there is a plain sedile below. The piscina (Fig. 32A) has a projecting Norman scalloped basin with a trefoil-headed canopy of 15th century date. On the south wall is a memorial tablet to William Lenthall, third son of the Speaker, who died in 1639. The Chancel roof is plastered and underdrawn. The only division between the Chancel and nave is a plaster partition above the Rood Beam. On the east side of this is a shield with the arms of the Lenthalls, and on the west side is the inscription recording the restorations of the Church. Some nice Jacobean pendants have been fixed under the beam. The oak pulpit with sounding board and some of the pews belong to the 18th century restoration. The rood loft stairs were in a projection, now blocked up, on the north side of the nave. There are two two-light square-headed windows on south, and one on north; side of nave, all of late 15th century date. The west window has three trefoil-headed lancets within plain containing arch. On the south side is the plain interior semi-circular arch (Fig. 33) of the main doorway. It is more lofty than the outer arch, and a relic of the Norman Church. The font (Fig. 32B) is of the 18th century date

of stone, with festoons and flowers on the circular bowl, and three bands on the slender shaft supporting it. Several of the old encaustic paving tiles remain. On the nave walls are some hatchments to members of the Lenthall family, with their armorial bearings, sable a bend fusily argent. The nave roof has been restored, but may be partly old. There is not much to note on the exterior. The double bellcote on the west gable of the nave probably dates from the 13th century, but has suffered from the later restorations. The roof is high-pitched and carried from end to end without a break. It is covered with large Stonesfield slates. Several low buttresses support the walls. The Perpendicular windows have square labels, and the hoodmoulds of the east and west windows seem to have been added at this later date. On the north side of the nave are walled up the lower jambs of the former Norman doorway. There is a plain projection on the north side for the rood loft staircase now blocked up. The south doorway is semi-circular Norman, with plain arch and jambs. It is within a timber and plaster porch (Fig. 34), which is of 15th century date, though much altered by the later restorations. The ironwork on the south door is old. There is a small segmental-headed doorway on the south side of the Chancel of the same date as the Perpendicular windows. It is rather singular that the important owners of, and residents in, this parish should have been satisfied to have worshipped in so small and plain a Church. The Besils were no doubt a wealthy family, as evidenced by the liberal bequests made by Sir Peter Besells in 1424. He, and probably other members of his family, had their place of burial at the Church of the Preaching Friars at Oxford, which may partly account for the fact of there being no memorials of this family remaining at Besselsleigh, though the quotation from Leland's Itinerary seems to imply that in his time there were some monuments in the Church, and these may have been removed by the Lenthalls, as in a similar case at Bampton Church, Oxfordshire, where Sir Thomas Horde allocated and partly re-built a chapel on the east side of the south transept and destroyed the monuments of the Mores which had previously been erected there. The Fetiplaces during their occupation of the property do not appear to have expended any money on their Parish Church.

Less than a mile away, as the crow flies, but double that distance by road, is the old-fashioned village of Appleton, with many ancient edifices, and three moated mansions. There were three Manors within the parish, and Lysons, in the "Magna Britannia," informs

us that the chief Manor, which had belonged to Roger de Stokes, had been granted to Giles de la Mote, Groom of the King's Chambers, in 1308. It then passed through female heirs to the families of Fitz Warine, Caston and Petyt, and afterwards to John Fetiplace, whose son sold it in 1600 to the Hanleys, from whom it was purchased in 1660 by an ancestor of the Southbys, who till recently continued to hold it and reside here, in the interesting old moated house close to the Church. This possesses "considerable and surprising remains" of late transitional Norman work of the end of the twelfth century. The most interesting portion of it is the fine semi-circular-headed entrance doorway (Fig. 35) with hoodmould, five engaged half-round arch mouldings, and rounded undercut abacus. There are three engaged shafts on each side; a fourth, the inner but one on each side, which was detached, has been broken away. All the capitals remain, and are enriched with stiff-leaved foliage. It is of the same date, and probably the work of the same masons, as those at the west and north sides of Fyfield Church. It has been illustrated in Lysons' "Magna Britannia" and Parker's "Domestic Architecture." Within the house are two plain semi-circular arches with half round on the hoodmould, and chamfered edge to arch and jambs and undercut abacus (Fig. 36) of the same date opening to the offices of the early part of this interesting structure. It has been very much altered in later times. Lysons regrets that he cannot ascertain the name of the owner of the Manor at the period when this house was built.

The second Manor was called "Tinteynes," and of this the moated enclosure still remains. This belonged to the Besils, and with their property at Besselsleigh passed through a female heir to the Fettiplaces. It afterwards came by purchase to the Southby family.

The third Manor, called Eton or Eaton juxta Cumnor, was in the possession of the St. Hilary family, but passed through a female heir to Aylmer, Lord St. Amand, was afterwards the property of Sir John Golafre, and at a later period of Sir Thomas White, who gave it to his newly founded College of St. John the Baptist at Oxford.

(To be continued).



Berkshire Archaeological Society.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting was held at the Abbey Gateway, Reading, on Tuesday, April 24th, 1917. The President, Mr. Charles E. Keyser, F.S.A., presided. There were present between forty and fifty members.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, after which the Hon. Secretary (the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield) read the Annual Report, which was unanimously passed.

The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. Hautenville Cope) then presented the Financial Statement ; this was also adopted.

Mrs. Cope proposed that some inquiry should be made in the town for a suitable room for the Society's lectures. This was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Hon. Secretary proposed the re-election of the President, Mr. Keyser. The Society owed much to him, and was fortunate to have a gentleman at its head who was so capable of performing the duties of the office and who took so keen an interest in the Society's welfare. This was seconded by Mr. Radford and carried with acclamation. The President proposed the election of the Vice-Presidents and Committee. In the place of Mr. Blandy, Mr. A. E. Preston was appointed Vice-President, and the latter gentleman's place on the Committee was filled by the appointment of Mr. T. Morley. Thanks were also given to Mr. T. R. Kent for his kindness in auditing the accounts. This concluded the business.

Mr. Charles H. Moore, late Director of the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, U.S.A., then gave a most interesting lecture on "Structural Evolution in Mediæval Church Architecture." A very hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer, proposed by Mr. Cope and seconded by Mr. Dodgson, was unanimously carried.

Thanks were also accorded to Miss Hissey and Miss Cooper-Smith for entertaining the Members to tea.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1916—17.

Your Committee have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1916-17. During this period of war, owing to the occupation of many in war work at home and in military service at the front, many learned Societies have abandoned all meetings and excursions and closed their doors until this disastrous period of the world's history be ended. It is with some satisfaction that your Committee are able to report that they have been able to carry on their work in some degree. The usual number of monthly lectures have been delivered during the Winter Session, and a very enjoyable and instructive excursion was made to Abingdon and the neighbourhood of northern Berkshire. This was very well attended, and the utmost kindness and hospitality were shown to the Society by the Mayor of Abingdon, Mr. Preston, Mr. J. T. Morland, and other gentlemen, while the President, with his usual architectural knowledge, explained the features of the Churches visited. The attendance at the lectures has been very good throughout the session, and has encouraged the Secretary and the Committee to endeavour to carry out the usual programme.

ABBAY GATE.

The Society still continues to occupy the Abbey Gate, which, from its associations dating back to monkish times and to the making of English History, is without doubt the most suitable place for the meetings of an Archæological Society. Our Treasurer sometimes warns us that this is purchased at a somewhat severe cost. The rent is £20, and besides this we have to pay for coal and gas £8 os. 2d., for caretaker £8 2s 6d., and rates, taxes and repairs £9 13s. 8d., making a total of £45 16s. 4d. Against this we receive for re-letting the room the sum of £20 17s. 0d. Hence the total cost of this admirable room amounts to £24 19s. 0d. a year. It has been suggested that we should abandon the library on the right of the entrance gateway, which would save us £5 a year, and we have sundry architectural relics in the room below, which may have been a porter's lodge or a prison cell. We may add that for some years we have had no increase in the number of our treasures. Your Secretary wrote to the Corporation requesting a diminution of the rent, but that body did not see their way to granting our request.

We may add that the Corporation at one time granted the Society the use of the Gateway rent free, but unfortunately a member of the Council took ill-advised action in the matter and burdened us with a rent which lies somewhat heavily upon us. It would be possible for us to rent a room for our meetings at a much smaller cost per annum, but it is for the members to consider whether that would be in accordance with the dignity of the County Archæological Society, or in other ways advisable. Certainly it would save the older members of the Society the somewhat painful climb up the steep stairs of this august apartment.

GENERAL.

We are not aware of any work of architectural importance that has been achieved in the County during the past year. The cost of the war and the prevention by the Government of the spending of large sums of money on buildings that are not absolutely necessary, have caused the work of all architects to be somewhat at a standstill. We may mention that our member Mr. A. E. Preston, who is now chairman of Christ's Hospital at Abingdon, has made arrangements for the restoration of the tomb of Sir John Golafré at Fyfield, the ruined condition of which was shewn in the President's admirable series of slides exhibited in his recent lecture. Some time ago the Secretary suggested that a tablet be inserted in the Church of White Waltham in memory of the distinguished antiquary Thomas Herne, who was born in that village. The Committee suggests that this idea may be kept in view, though there is no prospect of its fulfilment until after the war.

It was the intention of the South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies to hold its Annual Congress in Reading this year, and your Society was invited to take a leading part in trying to make it successful. Your Secretary attended a Council meeting in London at Burlington House when the matter was discussed, and a deputation was sent to Reading to consult with the Mayor and other gentlemen with regard to the feasibility of holding such a Congress this year. For various reasons it was decided that the visit would be inopportune at the present time, and the officials determined to hold the gathering in London this year, and to visit Reading later on. The President and Secretary have been appointed delegates. When the Congress comes to Reading we shall certainly do our utmost to welcome it and to promote its welfare.

ACTUAL WORK OF THE SOCIETY.

As we have already stated, the usual number of lectures have been delivered, seven in all, of which the following is the list :—

After the last Annual Meeting on May 1st, 1916, which was held as usual at the Abbey Gateway, the members adjourned to the Town Hall by the kind invitation of the Mayor (Mr. Leonard Sutton), who had with his usual hospitality also invited a large number of residents in the town and county. A lecture on "Shakespeare's Country" was given by the Honorary Secretary in connection with the Tercentary of the poet, all the company being entertained afterwards to tea by the Mayor of Reading. The hospitality of the Mayor was greatly appreciated, and he was cordially thanked by the President.

The first lecture of the current winter session (1916-17), on October 20th, was by Mrs. Cope, who spoke on things "New and Old."

On November 20th, at a very largely attended meeting, Mr. Anderson, one of our members, interested his audience with a lecture on "Salonika and the Country Round." This was illustrated with slides made from photographs which the lecturer had taken when travelling in Eastern Europe.

Mr. Treacher, F.G.S., on December 8th, took the "Origin of Berkshire Villages" for his subject. Our members will be glad to know that this lecture will be printed in the July number of the "Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal."

The fourth lecture, on March 5th, was by the Hon. Secretary, on "London Signs and Inscriptions." The views to illustrate this lecture were kindly lent by Dr. Phillip Norman, Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries.

At the fifth meeting our President gave "Notes on the Churches of Besselsleigh, Appleton, Cumnor, Wootton and Sunningwell." Like all Mr. Keyser's lectures relating to the architecture of Berkshire Churches, this one was greatly appreciated by a large audience, and the views shown on the screen gave very clear architectural details.

After the Annual Meeting on April 24th, 1917, Professor Charles H. Moore, A.M., Hon.A.R.I.B.A., late Director of the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, U.S.A., has kindly consented to give a lecture on "Structural Evolution in Mediæval Church Architec-

ture." Mr. Moore is the author of various well-known books on architecture, so that his lecture will be certain to be replete with interest.

Notwithstanding the crisis our nation is passing through, so many of our members being engaged upon various descriptions of "war work," these meetings were well attended, a fact which shews that it was a wise policy to hold a winter session.

The Committee, on behalf of the Society, returns thanks to all the lecturers for their kindness in addressing the Society.

Thanks must also be given to those ladies and gentlemen who kindly provided tea at the close of each lecture, viz. : The President and Mrs. Keyser, Mr. and Mrs. Radford, Mr. and Mrs. Cope, Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Williams, Miss Baily, Miss Hissey, and Miss Cooper-Smith.

EXCURSIONS.

Only one excursion was held in 1916, to Abingdon, Appleford, Sutton Courtney and Drayton. Through the kindness of the Governors of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon, the Society was not only allowed to see over the building, but also to inspect the MSS. belonging to the Hospital. These were explained by one of our members, Mr. A. E. Preston, who has made a careful study of the documents. The site of the Abbey was also visited under the guidance of Mr. Preston, and a lecture delivered in the Council Chamber by the Hon. Secretary on the history of the town. To both the Mayor (Mr. T. H. Clarke) and to Mr. Preston the Society desires to record its gratitude for all they did to make the visit to Abingdon so successful. Thanks are also due to the Mayor for his hospitality in providing tea in the Council Chamber.

The Committee propose to arrange an excursion in the summer to Wallingford, or Cumnor and neighbourhood, if the members think this would be agreeable to them.

OBITUARY.

It is the sad duty of the Committee to report that two members, Mr. H. B. Blandy, of Wokingham, and Mrs. Stilwell, of Yateley, Hants, have passed away since our last Annual Meeting. Although neither of them had recently been present at any of our meetings, they were two of the oldest subscribers to our Society, and were the personal friends of many of our members, and will be greatly missed.

PUBLICATIONS.

The "Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal" now enters the twenty-fourth year of its existence. It is the official publication of the Society, and all members are very urgently asked to subscribe to it. Besides our President's lectures which are published in each number, there are other papers relating to matters of archæological interest. It may not be out of place to mention that the expense of producing the Journal has increased considerably since the commencement of the war, and is still increasing owing to the ever-growing cost of paper and printing materials. Should there not be sufficient support given to the Journal, much as one would regret the fact, there is the chance that its publication may have to cease.

The University College, Reading, has published an account of the excavations at the Romano-British Site at Lowbury Hill, Berks, by Mr. Donald Atkinson, the Research Fellow in Roman Archæology at the College.

We must also call attention to an important and admirable work on the Silchester Pottery in the Reading Museum, compiled by Mr. Thomas May, who has accomplished his task with immense labour, accuracy and precision, revealing a thorough knowledge of the subject. The quarto volume abounds with excellent illustrations, and is published entirely at the cost of the Corporation of Reading. It does infinite credit to the Borough Council of this town, to the author, and to the Reading printers, Messrs. Poynder and Son, for the excellent manner in which the volume has been produced.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. John Hautenville Cope, presents his own separate Report, but the Committee desire to record their appreciation of the admirable way in which he has kept the accounts of the Society, collected the subscriptions, and managed the finances. In spite of the difficult times through which we are passing, he has succeeded in ending the year with a creditable balance of £13 11s. 2½d., which is more than £3 in excess of last year. The Secretary desires also to express his personal thanks to Mr. Cope for his services during the autumn of last year, when he was called up to act as Bishop's Missioner and was sent to conduct the National Mission in several villages in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Our thanks are also due to Mr. T. Rowland Kent for very kindly auditing the accounts of the Society.

In conclusion, your Committee trust that in spite of the hard and difficult times through which we are passing the Society may continue to carry on its useful mission of endeavouring to study and preserve the antiquities of the Royal County. When the war is over there seems to be a general desire for reconstruction in all phases of our national life. It is hoped that when peace comes we may be able to increase and extend our activities, and this can only be accomplished by a determination on the part of those who are now members to continue their membership, to assist in the work of the Society, to inform themselves with regard to its objects, to send notes of discoveries of objects of interest and importance to the Journal, to introduce new members, and to do their utmost to advance the cause of archæology in the neighbourhood in which they live. Reform and renovation and reconstruction are in the air, but unless these movements are guided by the stored wisdom of the past, they may tend to retard and hinder rather than to advance and promote the best progress of the nation.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

It will be within the recollection of our members that I succeeded Mr. Ernest Ravenscroft in November, 1915. At this Annual Meeting, 24th April, 1917, the first balance sheet for which I am solely responsible will be presented. I wish to lay the following facts before the Society :—

The number of members (men), those who subscribe 10/- per year, was on the 1st January, 1916, 64 ; on the same date the number of lady members, those who subscribe 5/- per year, was 74, making a general total of 134 members. During the year 1916, in the former class four resigned, but were replaced by three new members. In the second group 14 left the Society and two joined, one of whom is a life member, thus the total membership now stands :—Men members, 62 ; lady members, 60—total, 122.

I, however, regret to say that during the present year 1917 in neither class has there been any acquisition to our ranks. Furthermore, it is my duty to point out both to the Committee and to the Society, that some further subscribers have already intimated to me that they are unable to continue their membership. Unless steps are taken very quickly by the members of this Society to replace those who have left it is my candid opinion that very drastic steps will have to be taken to reduce the expenditure of the Society.

I now pass on to review the balance sheet. Taking the receipts side, it will be seen that, compared with the year 1915, subscriptions received in 1916 show a decrease over the previous year, 1915, of £3 18s. 6d. On the other hand, there is a profit of £1 14s. 6d. on the Abingdon excursion. The receipts obtained for letting the Abbey Gateway for mission services, meetings, etc., show a small increase of 16/-, which has only been obtained by your Treasurer asking those who have hired the room to pay a slightly increased sum on account of the higher charge for gas, coal, etc.

Taking the expenditure side, the rent of the Abbey Gateway, including taxes and rates, shews a reduction of £4 1s. 9d. over the amount paid in 1915; this is accounted for that a portion of the rent due for 1914 was not paid till 1915, *i.e.*, before I became Treasurer. It must be remembered that the Abbey Gateway is held by the Society from the Corporation of Reading at an annual rent of £15 per year, and the room called the Society's Library is also held from the same body at a further rental of £5 per year. Thus the Society has annually to pay the sum of £20 a year in rent, and in addition, by the terms of the lease, is responsible for rates, taxes and repairs.

Taking other items which call for report, I am glad to be able to state that I have been able to pay off part of a debt of £8 which has been owing to our Secretary for some time; the amount paid is £4 4s. 2d., *viz.*, £4 for printing, and 4/2 for postage. It is my intention to discharge the whole of the remaining portion of this debt, for I consider this to be a first charge on our funds.

It is with pleasure that your Treasurer can report that from the funds which have passed through his hands during the year 1916 he has been able to pay the subscriptions due to the South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies, as well as to the Congress of Archæological Societies. These are new items in our expenditure, as hitherto they have been paid through the generosity of our President.

In conclusion I wish very strongly to state that owing to the number of resignations as well as the number of pending resignations, and to the slow way in which subscriptions are coming in, that I do not consider the finances of the Society to be in a sound condition. From the Committee I should be glad to hear what steps they intend to take for the future continuance of the Society.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Treasurer's Statement and Balance Sheet for year ending 31st December, 1916.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, 1915, at Lloyds'			
Bank, Reading	9	10	10
In Treasurer's hands	0	14	0½
Subscriptions, 1916	10	4	10½
Profit on Excursion to Abingdon, etc., 1916	51	2	0
Rents received for Abbey Gateway	1	14	6
	20	17	0

£83 18 4½

Audited and found correct,

T, ROWLAND KENT, *Hon. Auditor.*

160, Friar Street, Reading.
16TH APRIL, 1917.

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Rent of Abbey Gateway	22	5	1
Rates and Taxes	9	13	8
Salary of Caretaker	8	2	6
Hire of Lantern	6	13	0
Gas, Coal and Wood	8	0	2
Postage	2	16	2
Printing and Stationery	10	9	6
Cheque Book	0	2	6
Commission, Postal Order	0	0	1
Subscription, South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies	0	5	0
Subscription, Congress of Archæological Societies	1	0	0
Repairs, Abbey Gateway	0	19	6
Balance at Lloyds' Bank, Reading, 31st December, 1916	11	1	2
Cash in Hon. Treasurer's hands, 31st December, 1916	2	10	0½
	13	11	2½

£83 18 4½

J. HAUTENVILLE COPE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

16TH APRIL, 1916.

Epitaphs from Hurley Churchyard, Berkshire.

1764.

In Memory
of Thomas Pocock who Died
Sept^r: y^e 2^d:
1764*
Aged 76 Years.

My time was come next may be thine
Prepare for Death whilst you have time
And if thou wilt prepared be
Live unto Christ that Died for thee.

1770.

To
the Memory of
Martha the wife of
William Glover
who Died Nov : y^e 19th 1770
Aged 60 years

I in my silent Grave was laid
Free from all grief and pain
But some spite or I know not what
Had me taken up again
My corpse was laid in view
That all the world might see
I died a natural Death

1780.

In Memory of
William the son of
James and Rachel Age
who Departed this Life
April the 3rd 1780
Aged 6 Years.

As careful Mothers doth, to Sleeping lay
Their Babes, that cold so long in Winter play
So Death, seeing my approaching crimes,
Nature, my Nurse, laid me to bed betimes.

* Date of Burial 1763 in Burial Register.

1801.

In Remembrance of
 Gilbert the Son of
 Joshua and Jane Lee,
 who departed this Life
 the 27th of April 1801 :
 Aged 6 years

As when the Morn advances all Serene
 And Orient Skies forecast* a glorious day
 When clouds at Noon in Tempest change the scene
 Which chac'd the Lovely prospect far away :
 So little Cherub did thy dawning Years
 Announce long Life and not an early doom
 Tho' blest in Heaven yet a Mother's tears
 Will long bedew the Melancholy Tomb !

1801.

In Remembrance of
 Hannah E. H. Lee Daughter of
 Joshua and Jane Lee,
 who departed this Life
 the 26th of May 1801 :
 Aged 1 year

Beneath a sleeping Infant lies
 To Earth her Body's lent
 More glorious shall hereafter rise
 Tho' not more Innocent.
 When the Archangel's trump shall sound
 And Souls to Bodies join
 Millions will wish their lives below
 Had been as short as thine.

1804.

Sacred
 To the Memory of
 M^{rs} Jane Guy Wi[fe of] †
 M^r William Guy
 who departed this [life] †
 The 24th of June 18[04] †
 Aged 48.

* *i.e.*, a word intended for "forecast."

[† The memorial headstone is scaled off, along much of the dexter half of the face of it.]

Farewell vain World enough I've seen of thee,
And now am careless what thou sayest of me,
Thy smiles I court not nor thy frowns I fear,
My days are past my Head lies quiet here
What faults you've seen in me take care to sh^{un};
Look but at home enough is to be done.

1810.

Sacred
To the Memory of
M^r William Guy
who departed this Life
January the 28th 1810.
Aged 59 years.

In the cold earth here consummated are :
The second nuptials of a happy pair.
Whom envious death once parted but in vain.
For now himself hath made them one again.
Here wedded in the Grave and 'tis but just.
That they that were one Flesh should be one dust.

1808.

to the Memory of
William West
who Died dec^r 26. 1808
Aged 55 years.†

How lov'd, how valu'd once avails thee not :
To whom related, or by whom begot,
A heap of dust alone remains of thee
'Tis all thou art and all the proud shall be.

F. T. WETHERED.

HURLEY VICARAGE,
August 14th, 1917.

[Mr. and Mrs. Wethered have accomplished a great work in transcribing the inscriptions on most of the tombs in Hurley Churchyard. These are often most valuable to genealogists, and, as the records are perishable, it is very important that they should be copied before frosts and storms have worn away the lettering. It is hoped that many others will copy their example.—EDITORS.]

[† Burial Register gives 56 years.]



The Origin of the Berkshire Villages.

By Llewellyn Treacher, F.G.S.

THE problem of the origin of our villages is one which must have presented itself to every student of local history, but unfortunately most local historians appear to be content with the old saying that all trace of a beginning is lost in the mists of antiquity, and so give up attempting to penetrate the darkness. Such a position is most unsatisfactory as we cannot properly understand the meaning of any object unless we know, or at least conceive, something of its first appearance.

A good deal has been written, in a general way, about the origin of the village community, the manor, the parish church, and even of the parish itself, but so far as I can find out no one has yet dealt with the question of why any particular village was planted, grew up and persisted from time immemorial at one spot, and that from the point of view of to-day not always the most desirable one which could have been chosen. It is as an attempt to solve this problem, or at least to point out the direction in which a solution is likely to be found, that the following paper has been written.

While recently working on the early history of the parish of Sonning I found that the first written records of the place showed it as a well-established, flourishing community, and gave no clue at all as to what its preceding history, not to speak of its origin, was, nor how it came into being. Other parishes, with the history of which I was fairly familiar, exhibited the same difficulty. Evidently the use of writing to record facts and events of local history did not come into use until a comparatively late period in the careers of our villages, and so unfortunately we are not able to avail ourselves of the help of ancient documents in our inquiry.

For the main body of our information we must rely on a knowledge of the natural surroundings of the village, including the structure and disposition of the rocks as forming hills, valleys or plains, the fertility or otherwise of the soil with its resulting types of vegetation and animal life, the climate, water supply and the like. All this is far more important when we are studying early history

than it would be later on, because the first men were more directly dependent on nature and her wild products than their more civilized successors, who had learned to control natural forces and make them serve their more advanced interests.

More especially I would follow the principle of using "causes now in action" to illustrate what happened in the past, a principle which has proved so fruitful in geology and other sciences. Fortunately for the purpose of our inquiry most of the Berkshire villages provide excellent material, as the great industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries although it doubtless indirectly arrested their growth yet left them practically unaltered in plan and general appearance. In fact they are what the geologist (not the man in the street) would call well preserved fossils.

I have mentioned the village as a type, but the hamlets and even the ancient isolated farmsteads all belong in origin to the same family of settlements. The towns also should be included, but later changes have so overlaid and obscured their original sites that it is often difficult to discover their exact position.

Now the first thing I would notice with regard to our Berkshire villages is that practically every one of them is situated on, or close to, a spring of water, a natural pond or a small stream. Indeed it would appear that what attracted the founders to the sites was a supply of water in a safe and dependable form close at hand. It was not great rivers like the Thames which were sought after, for the so-called riverside villages are such only in name or by accident of position. Sonning for instance seems to have been a sort of double village, originating at two springs of water, one of which rises close to Sonning Farm and the other in a field at the bottom of Sonning Lane. It is interesting to note that when Sonning was an episcopal residence one of these springs supplied the Deanery and the other the Bishop's Palace. The latter is shown in that part of the old map reproduced in a recent number of our Journal where it is marked Conduit Field. The two mills mentioned in Domesday as belonging to Sonning were those of Sandford and Sindlesham, both on the Loddon. Sonning Mill on the Thames was in Oxfordshire, probably connected with the manor of Dunsden. Small streams join the Thames at practically every village along its banks, and it was because of these streams that their sites were chosen for settlement. For itself the main river would be rather avoided on account of the danger from floods. The origin of the towns was on the same principle. Reading began with small settle-

ments along the Holy Brook and not on the Kennet, still less the Thames. In fact the latter river seems to have formed an absolute boundary to the town on the north side, and when it was crossed it was Caversham bridge, not Reading bridge, which carried the road over. Maidenhead was first planted on the western bank of the stream, sometimes called the White Brook, which crosses the Bath Road near the Bear Hotel some distance from the Thames. Wallingford was at first connected with the Hagbourne Brook, Abingdon with the Ock or some of its small tributaries, and so on.

Inland the connection between the villages and the springs is still more conspicuous, and here we note further that on the size, and especially the reliability, of the springs and streams very largely depended the prosperity and power of development of the corresponding villages. These springs may be grouped in three or four classes each controlled by the geological structure of the neighbourhood.

West of Reading and north of the Kennet the strata have a gentle south-easterly dip and are composed alternately of impermeable rocks like clay and marl, and permeable ones as chalk and sandstone, a state of things extremely favourable to a well distributed natural water supply. The southern part of this district consists of a great sheet or block of chalk several hundred feet in thickness, extending from the crest of the Wantage Downs southward till it disappears beneath the clays and gravels of the Kennet valley. It is sharply truncated along its northern edge, or escarpment, at the foot of which are exposed the outcrops of the underlying marls and clays on which it rests. The southerly dip-slope face of the block is deeply dissected by a series of narrow, steep-sided valleys, the principal of which are the Lambourne, the Winterbourne, and the Pang with its various branches. The chalk absorbs most of the rain which falls upon it and acts as a kind of reservoir with a water-tight bottom of marl and clay. When, after a wet season, the water rises in the reservoir, it begins to seep out into the more deeply cut of the valleys, appearing first in their lower courses and gradually working up towards their heads, its upper limit depending on the amount of the previous rainfall. In the Ilsley branch of the Pang valley, the floor of which is usually dry, miniature floods sometimes occur and the gravel washed by the stream may be seen in several pits by the roadside. The place of outbreak of the water moves up and down the valley according to the season, and varies from year to year with variation in the rain-

fall. The springs are what are called intermittent, and unless wells are dug down to the dry-season water-level the water supply is not very reliable. Now although along the bottoms of all these valleys may be found many villages and hamlets they all, with the exception of Lambourn and Ilsley which owe what superior importance they possess to their convenient position for market towns, are quiet and unprogressive places. Even Lambourn and Ilsley, except on market days, are as sleepy as the rest of them.

Turning now to the northern, escarpment, face of the chalk we find a different state of things. Here we have the base of the formation exposed and along its junction-line with the underlying impermeable strata the water bursts out in springs of good volume. Now, while the deep-slope streams only carry away the overflow, the escarpment springs are like taps let into the very bottom of the reservoir and can be depended on as long as it contains any water, which is practically always, because dry weather never lasts long enough to allow the supply to become exhausted. Curiously enough we find the villages situated on these permanent springs were, in early times, the most important settlements in the county. There is quite a line of them reaching from Ashbury on the west to Cholsey on the east, some of the more easterly ones, however, being situated on springs issuing from the Upper Greensand, a formation subordinate to the chalk and which rests directly on the Gault clay.

The northern slope of the Vale of White Horse consists of sands and limestones belonging to the Corallian formation resting on Oxford clay, and repeating on a smaller scale the phenomena of the chalk we have been considering. The line of low hills between Faringdon and Oxford are exact counterparts of the chalk ridgway, with dip-slope streams running down to the Ock on the south, and escarpment springs on the northern face connected with the valley of the Upper Thames. Here again the more important villages are on the escarpment side of the ridge. The largest place is Faringdon, a settlement of special interest from our present point of view, being situated close to the source of two distinct streams, one of which runs southward and the other northward, the little brooks running in parallel channels for some distance, their combined valleys forming quite a gap in the ridge, the lowest depression in which is near the centre of the town.

In the eastern part of the County, and also south of the Kennet, the strata are of a somewhat different character, consisting mainly of clays arranged horizontally, and capped on the hill-tops by thin

beds of gravel. Springs of water are thrown out along the valley sides at the junction of the gravel and the clay, but in most instances they are of small volume and only sufficient to support mere hamlets or single farmsteads. A good example is to be found at Ruscombe, which although a regular parish with an ancient church, is not, and never was, a village in the ordinary sense of the term. There are three farms, each with its little spring-fed pond and one or two groups of cottages in similar circumstances, but none of the springs are sufficient to supply a larger settlement. You have only to compare Ruscombe with such a place as Blewbury to see what an influence the natural water supply had on the early development of a village. The East Berks springs are not only individually of small volume but are also liable to fail altogether in seasons of prolonged drought. Consequently none of their villages were of much importance till the introduction of well-digging or other artificial means of obtaining water.

Another fact I would notice is that the spring, stream, pond or whatever the source of the water supply may have been, always appears to have a direct relation to a farmyard, so that we may fairly conclude that the germ of the village was a farm, and everything else about it the result either of the natural development of the farm itself or of institutions introduced from the outside, the water supply however, being for a long time the dominating factor.

It is therefore suggested that the foundation of our villages was contemporary with the introduction of agriculture into this country. By agriculture I mean not mere cultivation of the soil such as may have been casually carried on on the open downs or on terraces along the hill-sides, but an industry which required a permanent habitation to which surplus crops might be brought for storage, and where cattle and horses might be housed and fed. No doubt the natural fertility of the soil and the ease with which it could be cultivated had a good deal to do with the early development of the farms, but it could scarcely have had much effect on their origin. How could these early farmers tell which soil was fertile and which was not except by laborious experiment? There must have been hundreds of farms started most of which perished in infancy or dragged along a miserable existence, those which grew into villages being only a small proportion of the whole. In fact our villages are excellent examples of the survival of the fittest.

An objection may here be raised to the effect that in pre-historic times England, with the exception of some tracts of open downs,

was a land of dense forests and, especially in the valleys, almost impassable to man and beast, so thick and tangled was the vegetation. If this really was the case it certainly would have been difficult for these valley farms to have been established, at least before considerable clearing had taken place. But was this so? In primitive times not only was the vegetation wild but also the animals, and among them deer and oxen were not uncommon. These are browsing rather than grazing creatures, and where they existed in any numbers it is not likely that there would have remained much undergrowth in the woodlands. Most of the country would have been of an open, park-like character. Anyone who has kept cows and observed their habits knows very well that their favourite food is not grass but branches of trees, and in their feeding grounds old trees are fed off as high as the cattle can reach while young ones must be carefully fenced round if they are to grow at all. It is said that the prairies of North America owe their absence of forest trees to the vast herds of bison which formerly roamed over the plains and effectually prevented the growth of any plant larger than grass. Of course England is but a small place compared with that and conditions may have been different, still I think that the impassable forest has been much exaggerated and that there was no such woodland as would have prevented the building of farms in the valleys. Then it is generally understood that the keeping of domestic cattle preceded by some time the cultivation of the soil. The cattle must have had something to eat, and what was it, especially in winter, but mainly boughs of trees, including ivy? Even in much later times the loppings of felled timber were of considerable value for this purpose, and in Domesday we find the woods included as taxable property rather than obstructions to be removed.

Let us now take another line of inquiry and see where it will lead us, beginning with the earliest inhabitants of Berkshire of which any remains have come down to us. First we come to the men of the palæolithic or older stone age, but they need not detain us long. The evidence for their existence although abundant in the eastern part of the County is almost entirely of a geological character and concerns archæology but very little, and our present subject not at all. In fact palæolithic man lived in quite another world to the one we know.

With the neolithic or newer stone age men it is, however, different. Their remains, chiefly arrow-heads, celts and scrapers of flint, appear to be spread promiscuously over the surface of Berk-

shire and although, no doubt, if careful records were kept of all the finds, these might show some kind of order in their distribution, at present all we can say is that their abundance or otherwise at any given spot depends largely, if not entirely, on the zeal and energy of the local collector. The wide and regular distribution of such small objects argues a lengthy occupation of the land by the people who used them, and it also suggests, if it does not actually prove, that they were in a very primitive stage of culture. We must look for their modern representatives among the more backward races of the earth such as the Australian aborigines, who are described as wandering about in small groups of one or two families, camping at favourite spots where and when food is abundant. Their habitations are merely rough coverings of boughs or shrubs for protection against the wind. People in a similar condition dwell, or dwelt, in parts of the North American continent, and of them we are told that they never stopped longer than five or six weeks in a place. They lived on wild fruits and seeds and by hunting, had no fixed abode but travelled in companies and never stayed longer than the chase detained them.

Remains of the temporary dwelling-places of neolithic people are quite common in Berkshire. In the soil and subsoil of many gravel pits and quarries there may be seen traces of bowl-shaped depressions, lined with black ashes and so filled up with the soil that they make no feature on the surface, and can only be detected when exposed in section. Occasionally flint scrapers and celts occur among the ashes, one of the latter which was found near Maidenhead showing evident traces of the action of fire.

These remains show us that we are still back beyond the period in which our permanent villages were founded, but as time went on things changed. Increase of population meant decrease of game and either starvation or the invention of some other means of obtaining food. Then there was the immigration of more tribes from the continent, the principal of which are known to history under the general name of Celts, several waves of whom swept one after the other over the country in the centuries preceding the Roman invasion. It was probably the earliest among the newcomers who made the greatest alterations, the most important of which was the introduction of agriculture. To begin with, a few yards of the best available ground would be scratched over with rude tools of wood or stone, but judging from the habits of modern tribes in the same stage of culture the plots of land must have soon

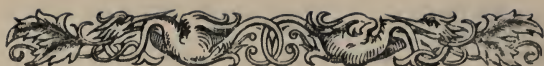
become exhausted and the cultivators obliged to move on from place to place in search of fresh soil. Their dwellings would have then been only a little more permanent than those of their more primitive forerunners. It is probably to this period that we must assign such remains as pit-dwellings, hut circles and the like, which are occasionally met with in the more open parts of the country. They were useful while the conditions lasted, but neither they nor the conditions in which they flourished had any survival value compared to that of our regular villages with their water supply and so on.

Doubtless there were at the same time tribes in the pastoral, or cattle-keeping stage moving about the grass-lands with their flocks and herds. Probably they formed by themselves one of the small invading waves and gradually spread over the country, and I would suggest that it was a mixture of these with the rude cultivators which gave rise to a race of farmers proper, who eventually became the founders of our villages with their permanent habitations.

Other invaders came later, men of a more warlike nature, and imposed their rule on the peaceful agriculturalists, developing into military leaders, lords of the manors, nobility and petty kings. The remains they have left are conspicuous though with scarce a seed of life in them. Such are the pre-historic trackways, quite different in plan and purpose from the local village roads, the earthworks, the fortified camps, the barrows and rude stone monuments of various kinds. The makers of all these were not the founders of our villages, which existed before them, and would have existed independently of them had they never appeared upon the scene. They lived upon the labour and intelligence of the villagers, repaying it by the often very valuable aid they rendered by keeping order at home and defending the peaceable inhabitants from enemies abroad, and it was their inheritance into which the Romans entered when they conquered the country.

(To be continued.)





The Family of Palmer of Wokingham, and Rye, Sussex.

By the Rev. J. Holford Scott.

(Continued from page 31, Vol. 23.)

Six children were born of this marriage, and two sons succeeded each other in the possession of East Court Manor. The elder, Richard Palmer born in 1647, died without issue, and but little is known of him, save that his wife was called Susanna and that he lived in a house on "Simonds Green," which house was in 1711 in the occupation of Charles, Duke of St. Alban's. Was "Simonds Green" the property which originally belonged to Johannes Symonds in 1309 or even earlier? If so, it is a further proof of the long tenure of property enjoyed by the Palmers in the immediate vicinity of Wokingham.

Charles Palmer, M.D., on the decease of his brother became the heir. By his wife Anne Aldworth he had no children, and as far as the writer can discover, on his death this branch became extinct. A sister, Maria Palmer, had married the Rev. Dr. Brabant, Rector of Berkhamstead, but there is no mention of any surviving children, and Maria Brabant was buried in the Chancel of Finchampstead Church on November 1st. 1728.

Dr. Charles Palmer in his will, to the exclusion of the Rye branch, left his property to his kinsman by marriage, Henry Fish, the youngest son of his cousin Humphrey Fish "the younger," of Ickwell Northill, Beds., with the condition that he took the surname of Palmer in addition to that of Fish.

The late Mr. William Lyon of East Court, in his excellent work "The Chronicles of Finchampstead," says "The name of Palmer ought to be held in high esteem and veneration by the town of Wokingham."

By a deed dated April 11th, 1664, Richard Palmer granted a parcel of ground in "Eversleigh" upon trust to pay the sexton of the Parish Church of Wokingham or such other person as the

trustees should think meet, to ring out the greatest bell belonging to the said Parish Church that shall be fit to be rung half an hour every evening at eight o'clock, and every morning at four o'clock, or as near to that hour as may be, from September 10th to March 10th in each year in order to induce a timely going to rest in the evening, and early rising in the morning to the labours and duties of the day (things ordinarily attended and rewarded with thrift and proficiency) and that strangers and others who should happen in winter nights, within hearing of the ringing of the said bell, to lose their way in the country, might be informed of the time of night, and receive some guidance into their right way ; and further that the ringing of this bell might lead people to think of their own passing bell and day of death and of their resurrection and call to the last judgment.

Charles Palmer, M.D., gave £10 a year to the Minister of the Church of Wokingham for ever provided that no part of his salary payable by the impropiator be thereby lessened, which bequest was made chargeable to his estate and lands in the Parish of Wokingham on condition that "the Minister of the said Church preach a sermon on 15th February in every year towards the promotion and encouragement of charity."

Charles Palmer also gave £20 a year to the parish of Wokingham towards maintaining at school 20 poor boys of the town and parish of Wokingham, the sons of members of the Church of England ; the boys to go every Sunday to the Parish Church and be taught the Church Catechism and examined in the Church by the Minister : the payment to be made out of the rents from his lands in Wokingham. He appointed the Rectors of Wokingham, Finchampstead and Aborfield (Arborfield ?) for the time being (besides several other persons named) to be trustees of this his Charity.

Charles Palmer's sister Martha, who died in 1723, founded a school for 12 girls, to be called "The Maiden School" ; the children to call each other sister, and to be taught to read, work, spin, etc. It is interesting to note that when the "New Public Elementary Schools" were erected in the year 1874, in the place of the "Old National Schools," £1,000 was obtained by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners from a local Educational Charity, called "Martha Palmer's Charity," and the schools were named "The Palmer Schools" to commemorate this charitable foundation.

As regards the family of Fish-Palmer (the prefix was spelt Fyshe after 1814), three generations succeeded to the estates of East Court Manor and Luckley. The grandson of Henry Fish-Palmer, Charles

Fyshe Palmer, married Lady Madelina, second daughter of Alexander fourth Duke of Gordon, and widow of Sir Robert Sinclair, Bart., and dying without issue left all his property to his step-son, Sir John Gordon Sinclair, Bart., who eventually sold the Luckley and East Court estates to Mr. John Walter of Bearwood in 1849.

(To be continued.)

A Surbey of Wallingford in 1550.

By the Rev. J. E. Field.

(Continued from Vol. 23, page 29).

Fish Street, east side (*continued*),

- (5) Lady Anne Reede holds there one tenement in the tenure of Thomas Maskall with a parcel of land adjacent, containing in length 46ft. and in breadth 32ft., and pays per annum iijs.
- (6) Ralph Pollyngton holds there one tenement called Jeys with curtilage adjacent, containing in length 52ft. and in breadth 98ft., late Elizabeth Polhampton's, and pays iijs.
- (7) The same Ralph holds there one tenement called Dousys with a parcel of land adjacent, in length 47ft. and in breadth 19ft., and pays per annum xx*d*. [He refuses ij*d*, 1561].
- (8) John Bell holds there one tenement with land adjacent, in length 45ft. and in breadth 40ft., late Elizabeth Polhampton's, and pays ijs.
- (9) xvijs. iiij*d*. Rose Cheyney holds there one tenement with curtilage, in length 143ft. and in breadth 127ft., formerly Elizabeth Polhamptone's, now in occupation of William Dell, and pays vjs.

The sums named at the close of each entry appear to be due to the Lord of the Honour, but there is no note to indicate to whom

the amount stated in the left-hand margin of the last entry is to be paid. In the same left-hand margin additional figures are inserted in 1561, namely, at No. 5, xvjs. viij*℥*. ; Nos. 6 and 7 conjointly, lxvjs. viij*℥*. ; and No. 9, xxxvjs. viij*℥*. ; but nothing at No. 8.

Proceeding southward along Fish Street (now St. Mary's Street), Lady Rede's tenement (5) is adjacent to the White Hart entry (p. 28). The Survey gives no indication of any other entry or side street leading out of this east side of Fish Street, with the exception of one lane (*venella*) near the southern end, which, as will appear, must be identified with the present New Road. St. Leonard's Lane, immediately within the southern boundary of the town, is obviously ancient ; and it can hardly be doubted that the lane by the Corn Exchange, Hart Street, and New Road represent lanes which connected Fish Street with Wood Street in 1550 as they do now. At the outset we are met with a considerable difficulty, for the aggregate of the frontage in St. Mary's Street between the White Hart entry and the corner of St. Leonard's Lane is only 1072ft., whereas the aggregate in the Survey is 1156ft., besides some plots of which the measurements are not stated. In other words, the Survey gives us considerably more than 100ft. too much.

The first problem is to fix the position of the Corn Exchange Lane between two of the tenements described in the Survey. The distance from the White Hart entry to the lane is now 285ft. ; but the Survey shows four tenements measuring respectively 46ft., 52ft., 47ft., and 45ft., making altogether 190ft., and the next is 143ft. which gives a total of 333ft. It is most improbable that the lane crossed this fifth holding, and equally improbable that it has been cut through at this point in more recent times. The fact that we have to account for so much excessive frontage, as described in the Survey, may suggest another solution.

It has been remarked already that the Survey gives no description of the west side of Wood Street. Yet it can hardly be doubted that there were tenements there. And we have already seen that the fourth holding in Fish Street, on the north side of the White Hart entry, was at the back of the third (p. 27), and therefore must have opened upon Wood Street, though it is reckoned as belonging to Fish Street. Putting these facts together, we may conjecture that perhaps some portions of the excessive frontage in the Market Place and the other part of Fish Street were in a similar position, though they are not so described. Then we find a great difference between the breadths of the five holdings now before us, as they stretch back

towards Wood Street. They are respectively 32ft., 98ft., 19ft., 40ft., and 127ft. The distance between Fish Street and Wood Street by the White Hart Lane is 149ft., and by the Corn Exchange Lane it is 198ft. Thus there is ample room for Pollyngton's second tenement called "Dousys" (No. 7), being only 19ft. wide, to lie at the rear of his other tenement called "Jeys," which is 98ft. wide. Their united widths are 117ft., while Rose Cheyney's tenement (No. 9) is 127ft. The difference of frontage to be explained (333ft. against 285ft.) is 48ft. If we thus deduct the frontage of Dousys, 47ft., as belonging to Wood Street, and if the site now occupied by the Corn Exchange has encroached 1ft. upon the lane, the two accounts agree precisely.

(To be continued.)

Oxford Ladies' Archæological and Brass-Rubbing Society.

YEAR 1816-17.

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Miss SWANN, Walton Manor.

Committee :

PresidentMiss SWANN.

Hon. TreasurerMiss LUCY SWANN.

Hon. LibrarianMRS. WHITMARSH.

Hon. SecretariesMiss STONE.

Miss POYNTER.

Members of Committee ...MRS. ODGERS.

Miss MEE.

MRS. MUSGRAVE.

Miss SPENCER THOMSON.

50 Members, 2 Honorary Members, 14 Candidates waiting for admission.

THE Society, founded in November, 1894, continues to flourish, and the number of its Members and the interest of the papers read at the meetings are fully maintained.

It has this year to deplore the loss of two of its Members by death. Miss Kate Ward, who had been a most energetic Secretary and valuable Member, passed away on December 23rd, 1916; and Miss Hyde, a Member almost from the beginning of the Society, and a contributor of Papers on Brasses and an exhibitor of very beautiful rubbings of them, died in April, 1917. Miss Poynter has been elected as Secretary in place of Miss Kate Ward. One Member has resigned on leaving Oxford. The vacancies have been filled up from the candidates who were waiting for admission.

Six meetings have been held, but owing to the shortage of petrol for motors and the consequent difficulties of going from place to place it has been thought advisable this year to omit the usual excursion.

On October 16th, 1916, Mr. F. Madan, F.S.A., Bodley's Librarian, read a paper of great interest on "Places of Pilgrimage in Oxford." Of these he mentioned five:—

I. The site of St. Frideswide's Church of the 8th century, the fragments of which were discovered by Mr. J. Park Harrison in the east end of the Lady Chapel and in the north choir aisle of the Cathedral, and outside the building he found traces of the foundations of a triple apse.

II. "The Cradle of the University," as it may be called, the old Convocation House, which stands at the north-east corner of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. This was the first building used by the University for its public ceremonies. The north side of this building was erected in the first half of the 14th century.

III. St. Edmund Hall, which stands first in the earliest (15th century) list of Halls, and which still exists. It represents, and it alone can represent, the pre-collegiate period described in all histories of the University.

IV. The Benedictine Buildings or *mansios* of Worcester College, and

V. The Holywell Music Room, which, as Dr. Mee has shown, is absolutely the first separate building in Europe erected and systematically employed for the special use of musicians. It was opened in 1748.

The lecture was illustrated by many original photographs. It was given, by kind invitation of Miss Mee, at Holywell House, in the music room, and she very kindly entertained the large party of Members to tea afterwards.

On November 10th a meeting was held in St. Rognvald's Lecture Room for the election of officers for the ensuing year, and Miss Swann gave a short paper on "The Mystery and Morality Plays."

On January 31st, 1917, Mr. C. E. Keyser, M.A., F.S.A., gave a lecture on the Churches of Sutton Courtney, Appleford, Drayton and Milton. It was held in Hannington Hall, and Mr. Keyser showed a very large collection of photographic slides, many of which he had most kindly had specially made for this lecture. Sutton Courtney has many objects of archæological interest, and all the Churches spoken of well repay a visit.

On February 28th Mrs. George Musgrave read a paper on *Misereres*, which she illustrated by a very large collection of beautifully-executed drawings of her own doing. She also exhibited a large collection of photographs of *Misereres*, the earliest example shown being one of the 13th century from Sutton Courtney Church. Many of the *Misereres* were carved with most quaint and grotesque figures, and showed very plainly the growing dislike of the people of the extortions and bad conduct of the clergy in the 14th and 15th centuries. These in many instances were represented in *Misereres* as foxes taking advantage of the credulity of their flocks. The meeting was held in the Lecture Room of the "Three Feathers," and Mrs. Musgrave entertained the Members and friends at tea after the meeting.

On May 11th Mr. G. Claridge Druce, F.L.S., gave a lecture on the origin of the Oxford "Physic Garden," with some account of Early English Botanists. He also showed many lantern slides of plates from his magnificent collection of Herbals.

The last meeting of the year took place on June 4th; it was at Oriel College, by kind invitation of the Rev. G. C. Richards. He received the Members in the Hall, and gave them an account of the foundation of the College and of its connection with St. Mary Hall; he afterwards conducted them over the Chapel, Hall, Library, and Common Room, the latter being full of portraits of the many celebrated people who have been members of Oriel.



FYFIELD CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons. Reading

Fig. 17. 1917.

THE EAST WINDOW.



Walter Adams & Sons. Reading

THE REREDOS.

Fig. 18. 1917.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

TABERNACLE NICHE ON REREDOS.

Fig. 19. 1917.

FYFIELD CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

Fig. 20. 1917.

PISCINA, SOUTH SIDE OF CHANCEL.

FYFIELD CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

Fig. 21. 1917.

THE SEDILIA AND PISCINA.

FYFIELD CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

Fig. 22. 1917.

THE "GORDON" MONUMENT AND EASTER
SEPULCHRE.

FYFIELD CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

THE CREDENCE TABLE.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

TOMB OF SIR JOHN GOLAFRE.

Fig. 24. 1917.



Watson Adams & Sons, Reading

FROM THE EAST.



Taunt, Oxford.

FROM THE WEST.

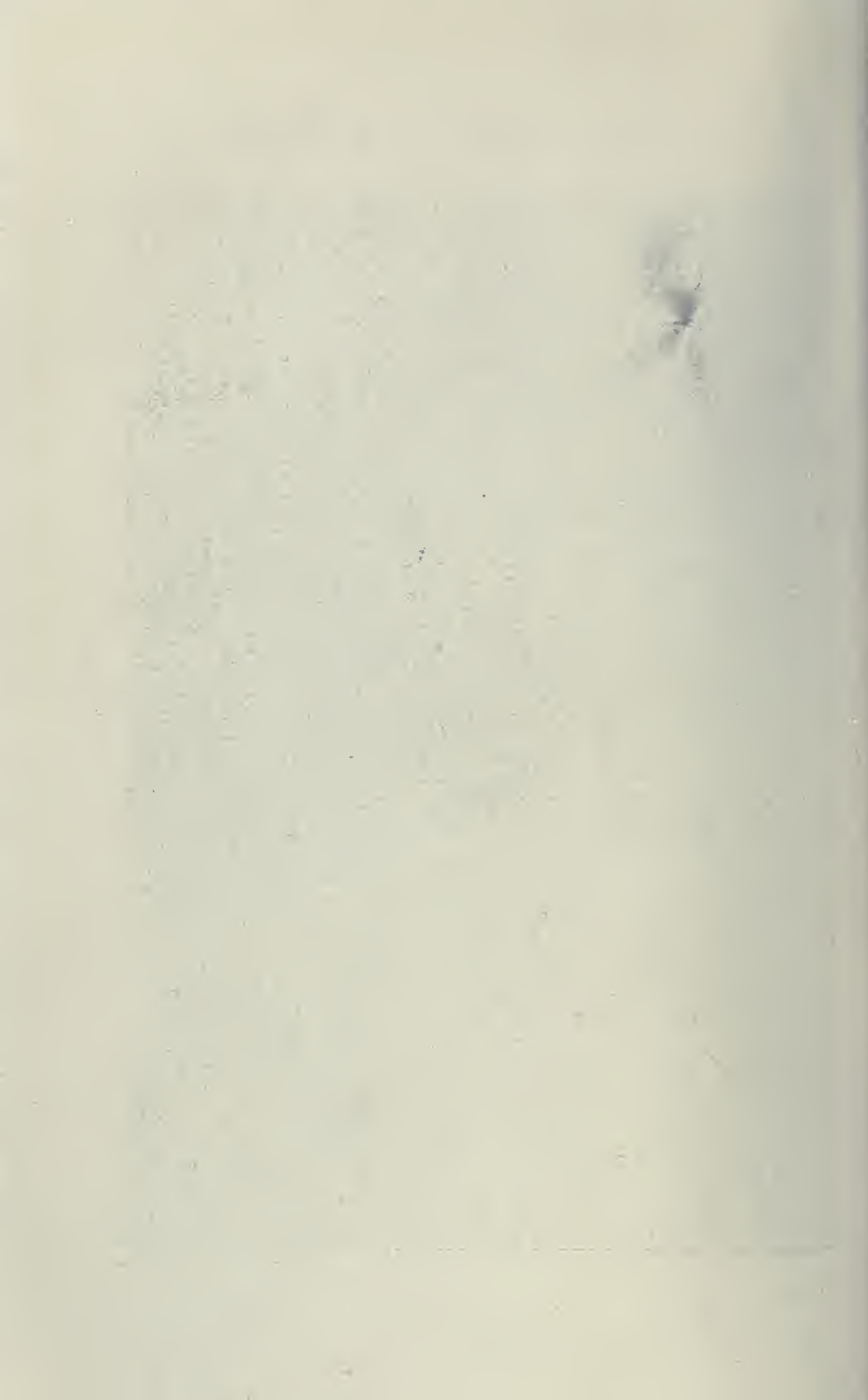
Fig. 26.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

THE WEST WINDOW.

Fig. 27.





Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.
DECORATED WINDOW, NORTH SIDE OF CHANCEL.

BESSELSLEIGH CHURCH.



Taunton, Oxford.
FROM THE SOUTH.

Fig. 29.



Taunton, Oxford.

INTERIOR LOOKING WEST.



Taunt, Oxford.

INTERIOR LOOKING EAST.

Fig. 31.



Fig. 32a.

THE PISCINA.

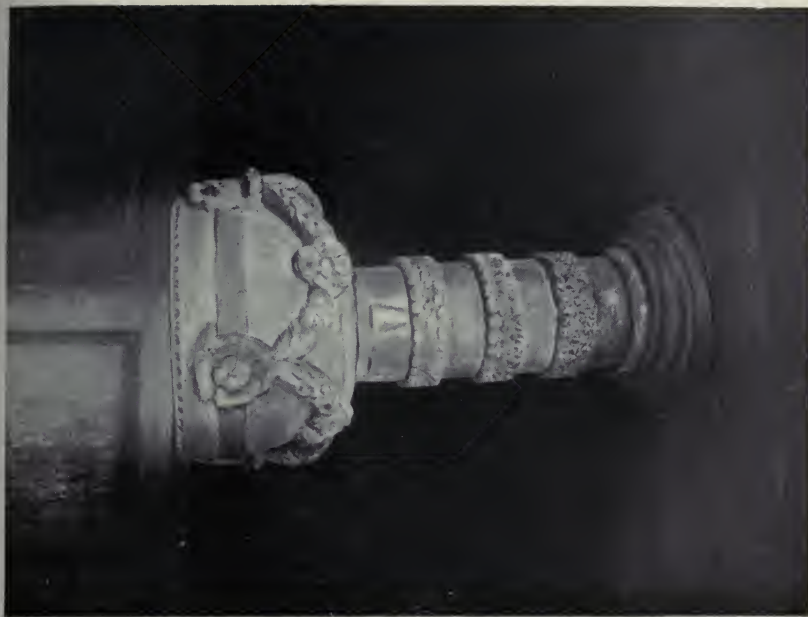


Fig. 32b.

Taunt, Oxford.

THE FONT.

BESSELSLEIGH CHURCH.



Taunt, Oxford.

Fig. 33.

THE SOUTH DOORWAY. INTERIOR,



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

THE SOUTH PORCH.

APPLETON MANOR HOUSE.



Taunt, Oxford.

Fig. 35.

MAIN ENTRANCE.



Taunt, Oxford.
INTERIOR OF HALL.

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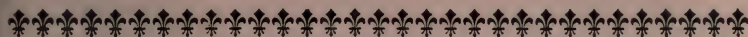
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Vol. 23. Nos. 3 & 4.] [October—December, 1917.

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THE
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Archæological Journal.



Published in connection with the following Societies :—

The Berkshire Archæological Society.
The Newbury District Field Club.
The Oxford Architectural and Historical Society.
The Oxfordshire Archæological Society.
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THE JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

EDITED BY

REV. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.

*Rector of Barkham ; Fellow of R. Hist. Soc. ; Hon. Sec. of
the Berks Archæological Society.*

AND

JOHN HAUTENVILLE COPE.

recd Apr. 30. 1918
Reading :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS BY C. H. SLAUGHTER.
London : ELLIOT STOCK, 62, Paternoster Row

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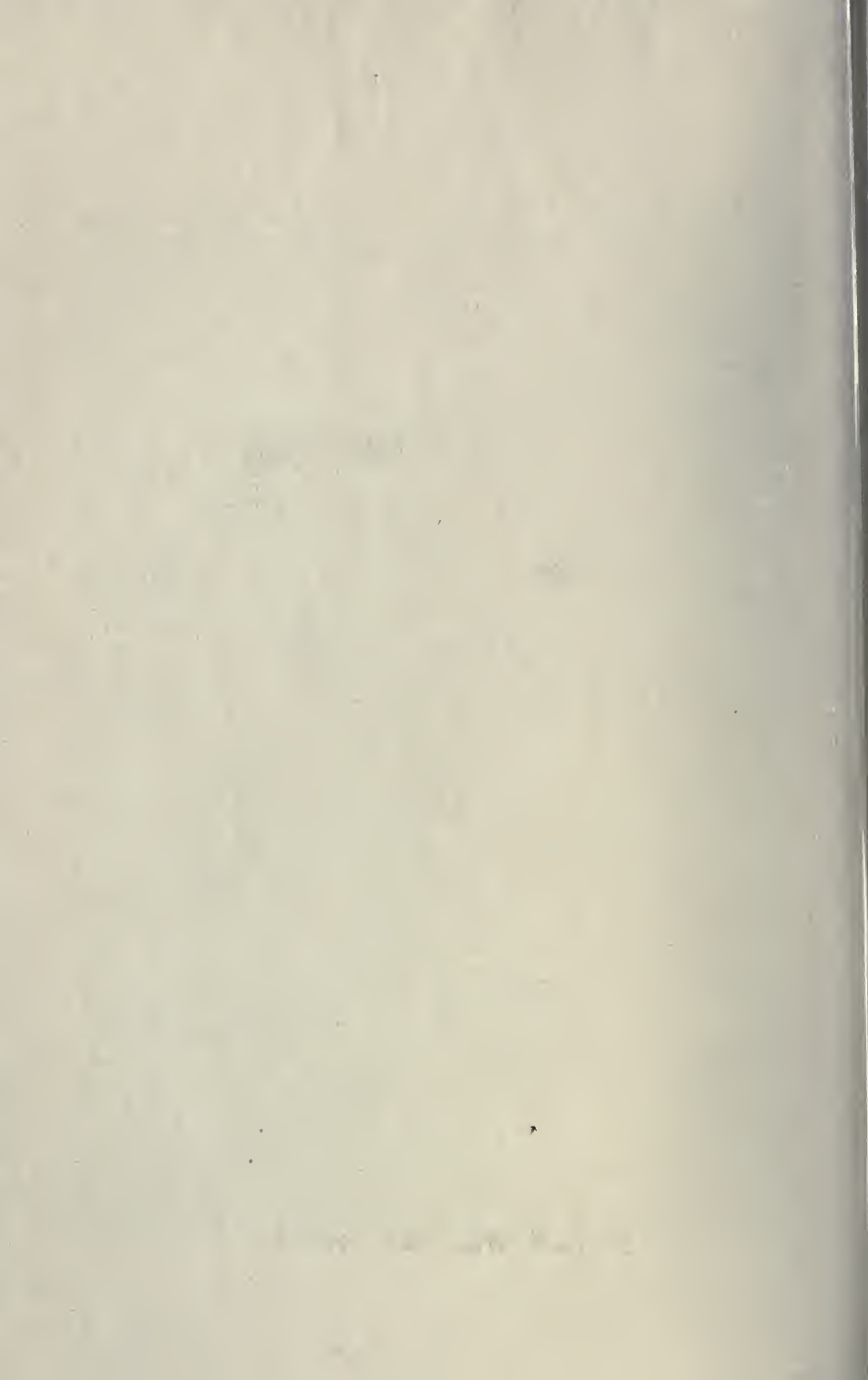
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Taunt, Oxford.

From the South East



APPLETON CHURCH.



Fig. 37.

Walton Adams & Sons. Reprint
The Chancel.

APPLETON CHURCH.



Taunt, Oxford.

Fig. 38.

Tomb of Sir John Fetiplace.

APPLETON CHURCH.



Here lyeth John goodryngton acut hūmā vchūdi dēclūd tū hāt dāy
of Sctūmbr .iiij. dū m cccc xlviii. nō chartē pū for hīs soule and
for drathē his wifē whiche all his dēthē lōkē vchūmū m v mōuēlāy of froy

Fig. 39.

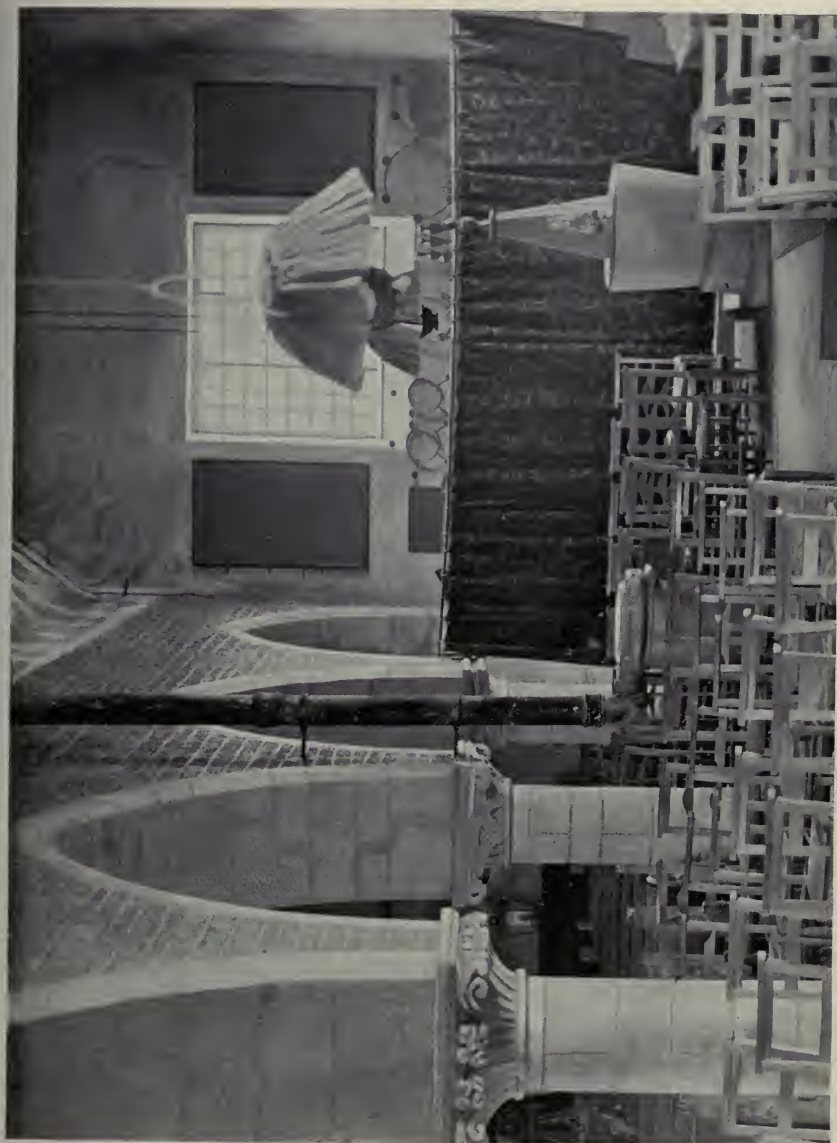
Taunt, Oxford.
Brass of John Goodryngton.

APPLETON CHURCH.



Fig. 40.

Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.
Interior looking West.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

Nave Arcade and North Aisle.

APPLETON CHURCH.

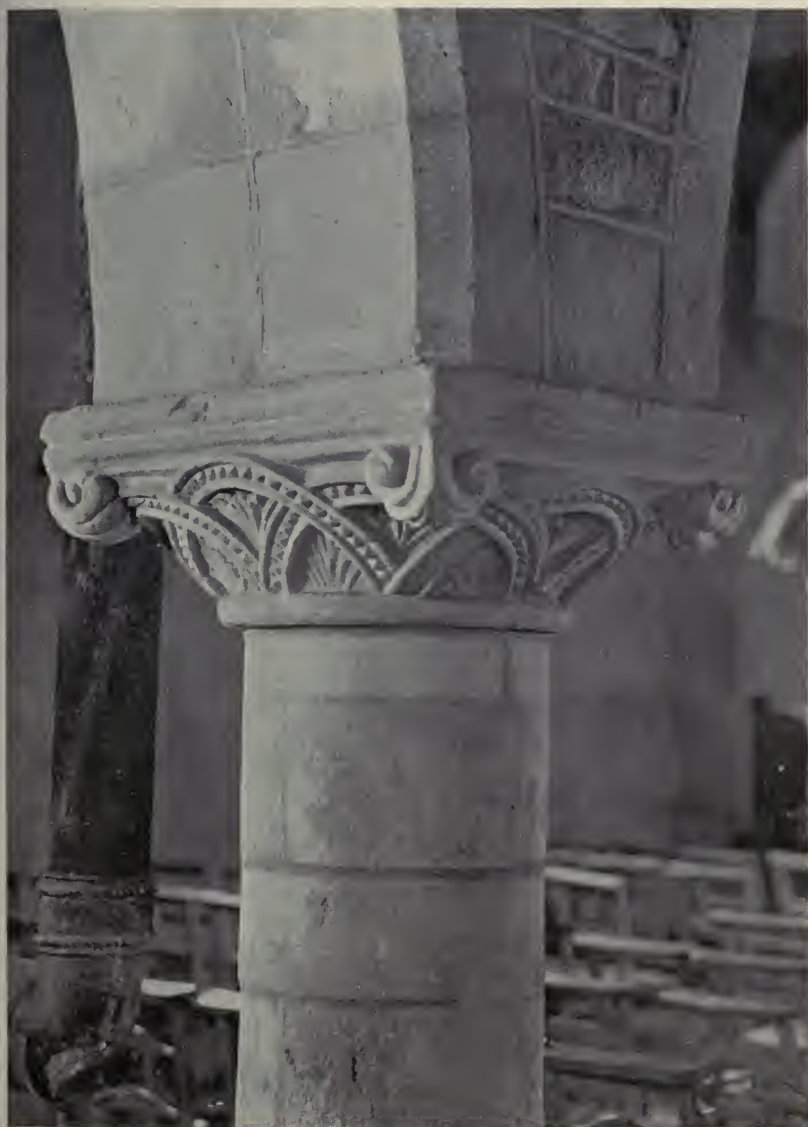


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Fig. 42.

Capital of East Column.

APPLETON CHURCH.



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Fig. 43.

Capital of Central Column.

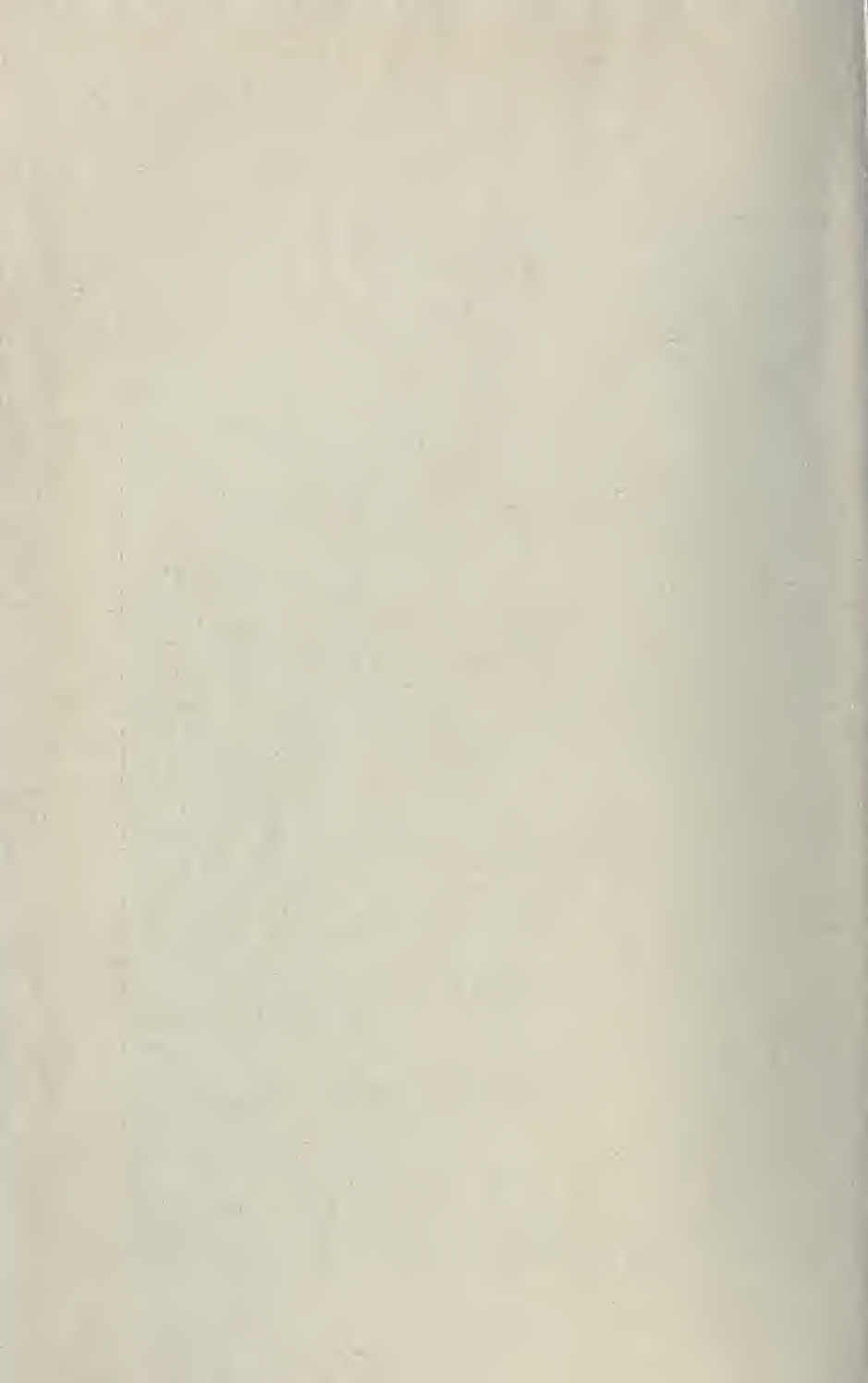
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Fig. 44.

The Font.



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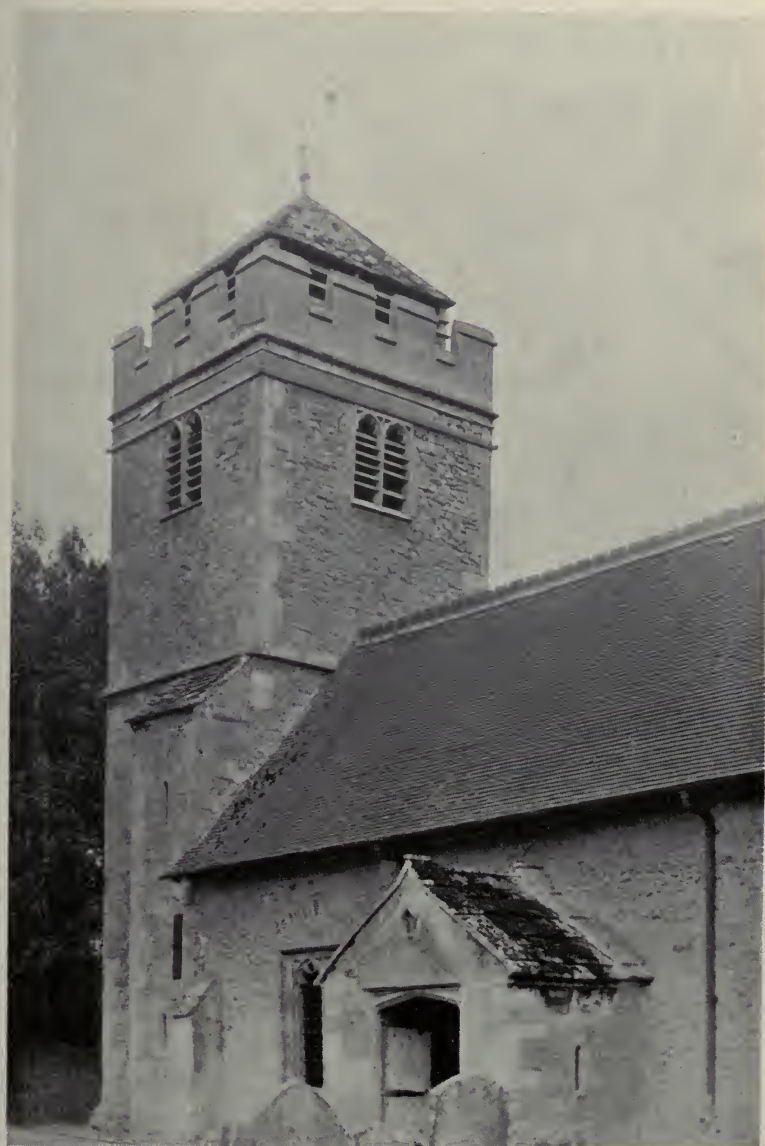
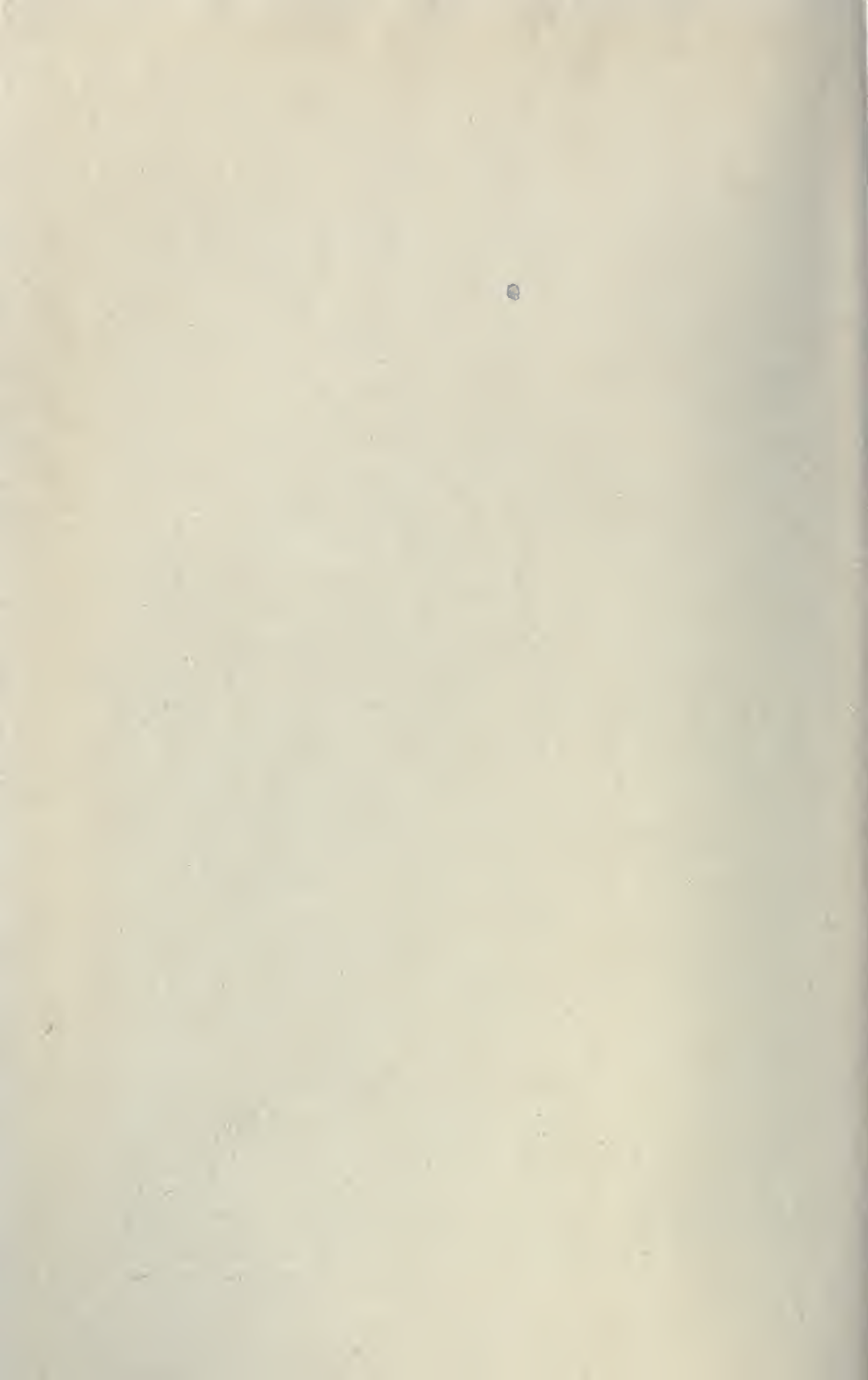


Fig. 45.

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The Tower and South Porch.

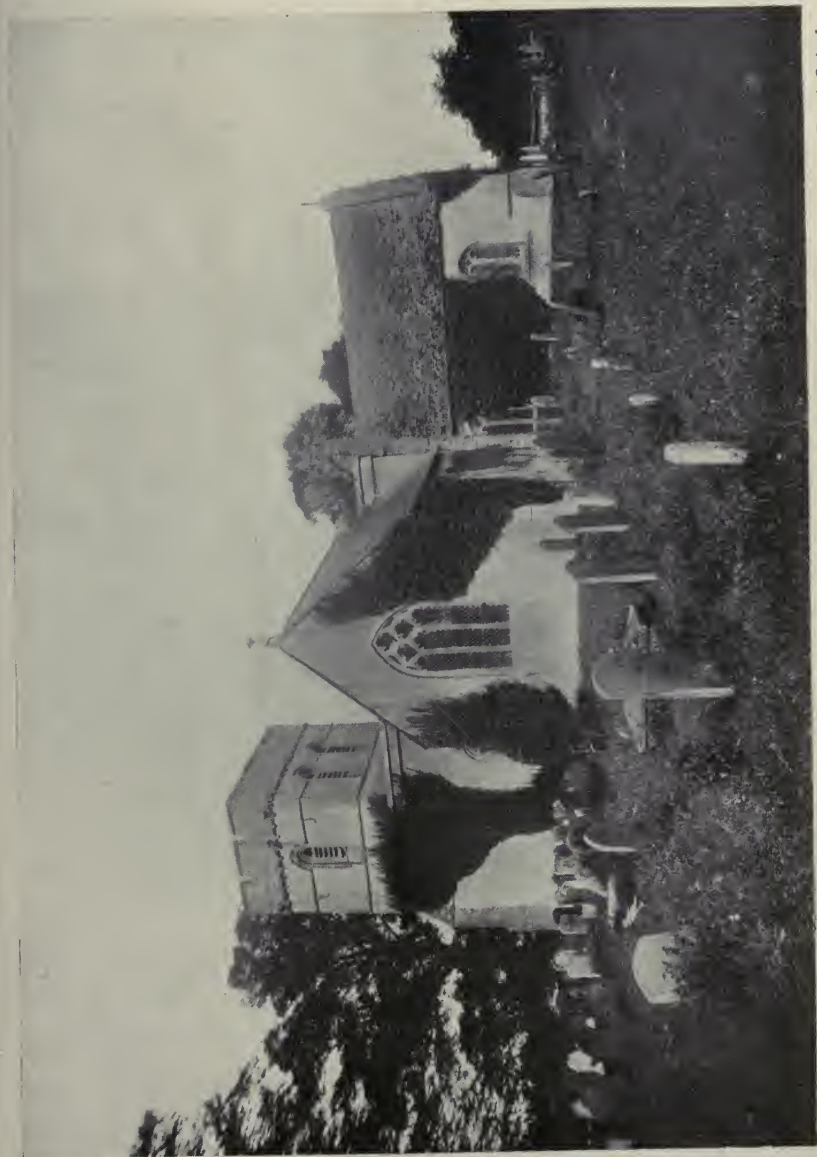




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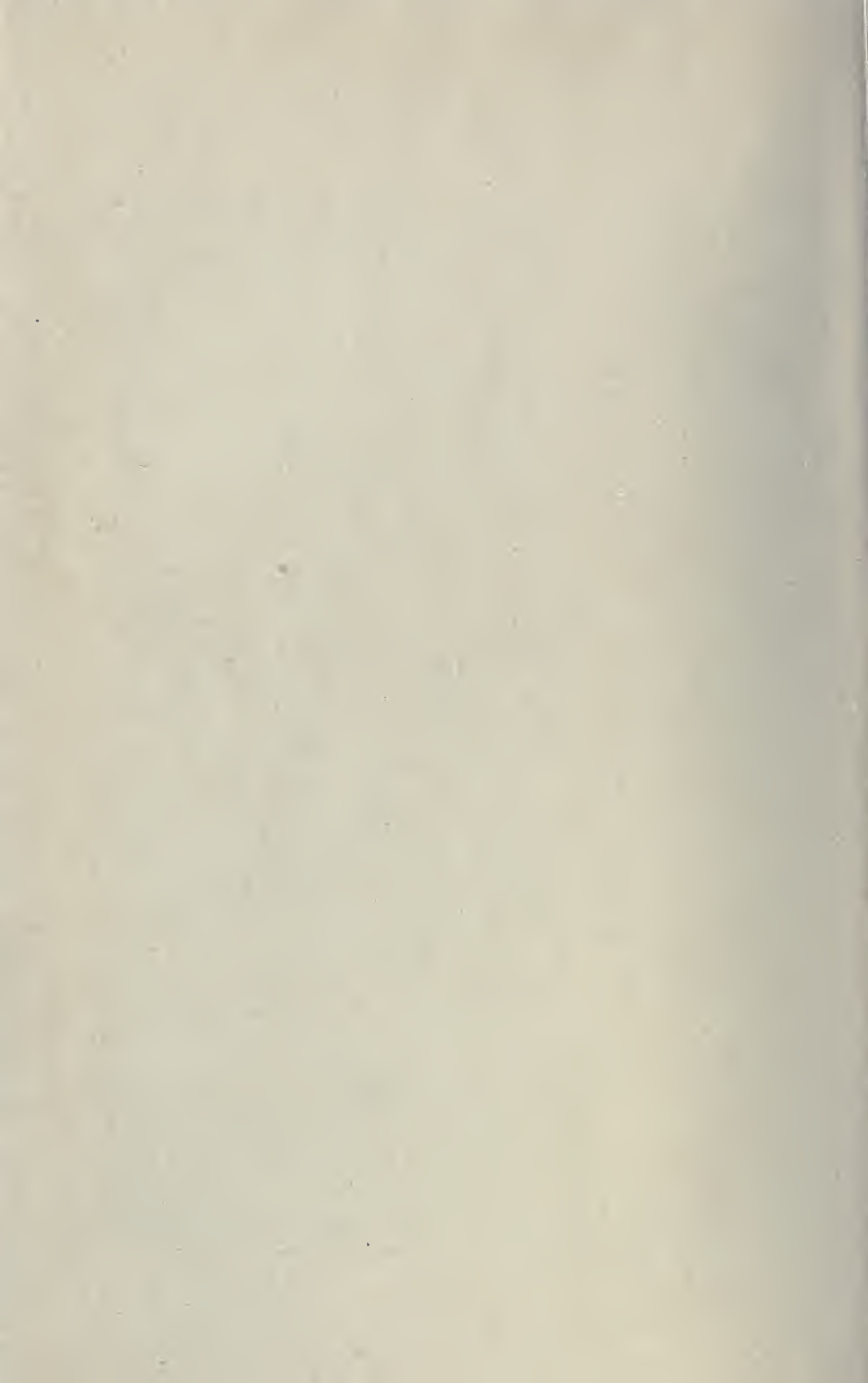
From the North East.

Fig. 46.



Taunt, Oxford.
From the South.

Fig. 47.





Leant. Oxford.

Interior looking East.

Fig. 48.

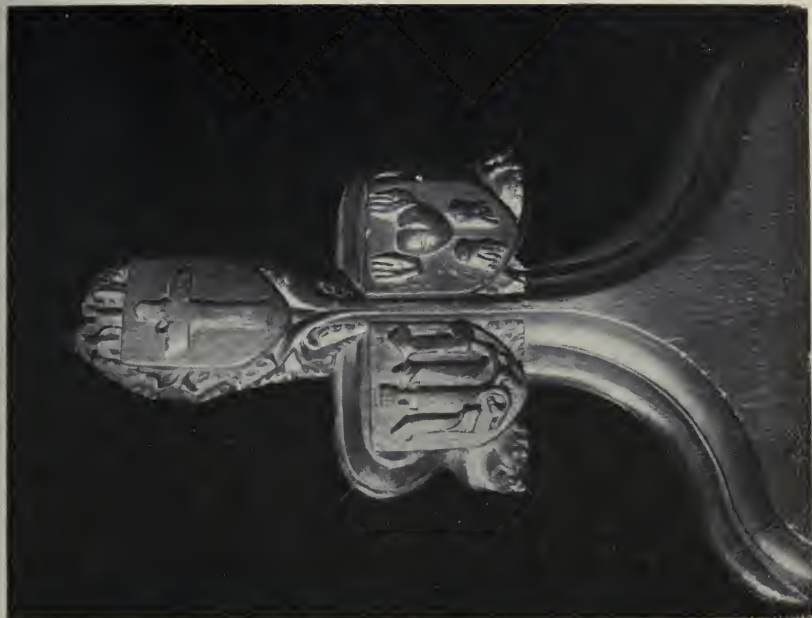


Taunt, Oxford.
The Chancel.

Fig. 49.



Fig. 50.



Taunt, Oxford.

Poppyheads of the Chancel Stalls.

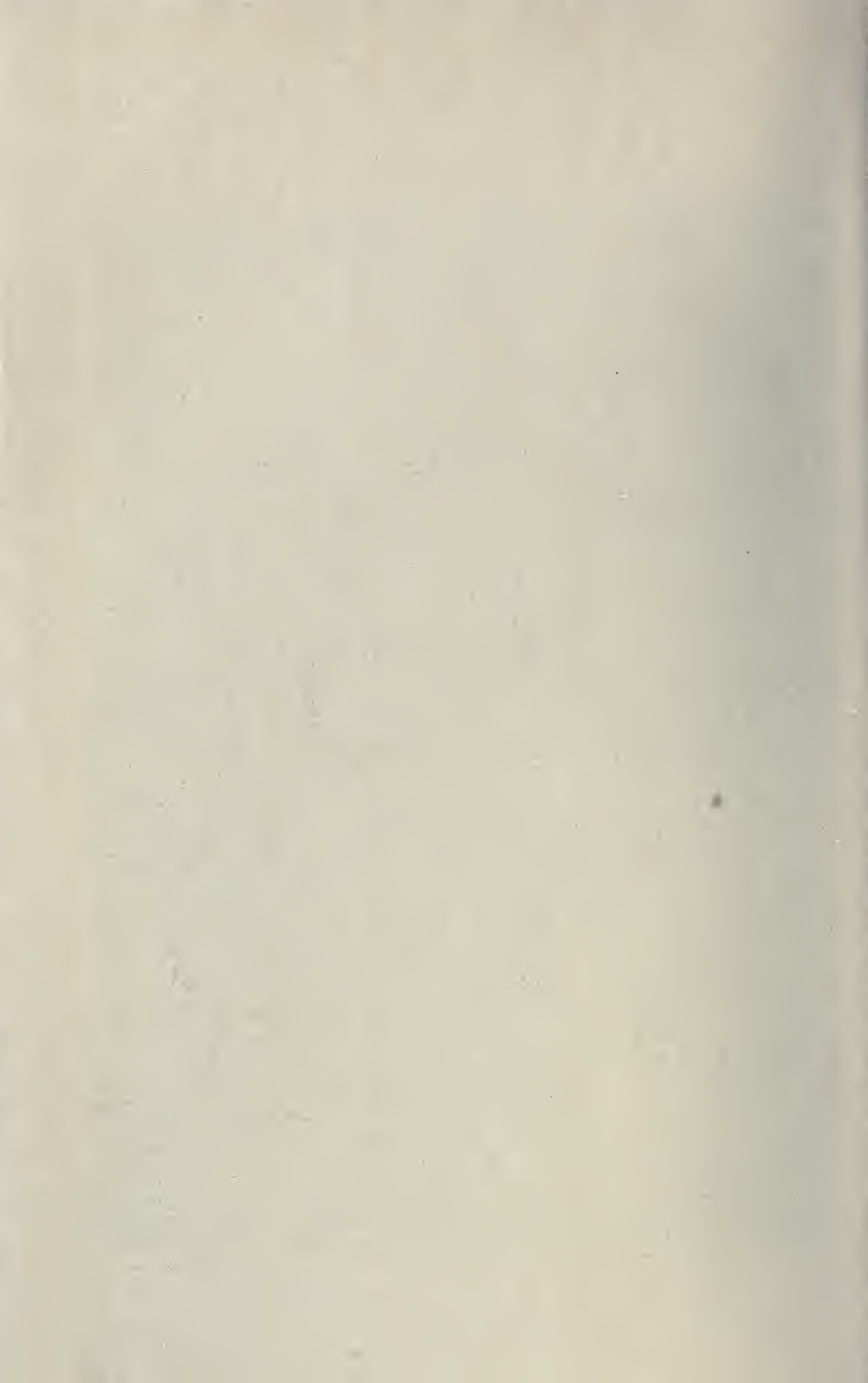
CUMNOR CHURCH.



Taunt, Oxford.

Fig. 51.

Poppyhead of Chancel Stalls.



CUMNOR CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, London.

Fig 51a.

Window North Side of Chancel.

CUMNOR CHURCH.

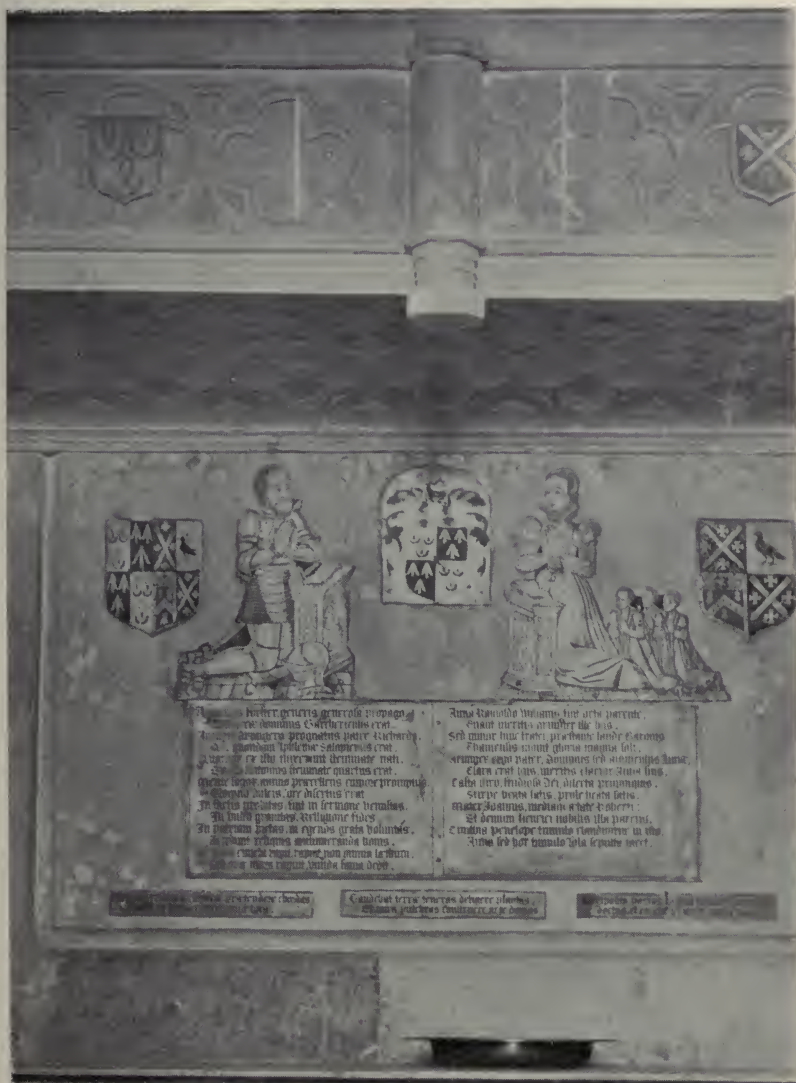


Taunt, Oxford.

Fig. 52.

Tomb of Anthony Forster

CUMNOR CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

Fig. 53.

Brasses of Anthony and Anne Forster.

CUMNOR CHURCH.

EPITAPH IN CUMNOR CHURCH OF ANTHONY FORSTER, AND OF ANNE HIS WIFE.

The former died 1770, the latter 1799.

THE EPIGRAM.

Anthony Forster, born at Cumnor, in 1725,
A gentle, kind, and pious man,
Whom all who knew him loved,
And all who knew him praised.
He died the 10th of June, 1770,
At the age of 45 years,
And was buried in the church of St. Andrew,
At Cumnor, in the county of Gloucester.
His wife, Anne, died the 10th of June, 1799,
At the age of 74 years,
And was buried in the same church.
The epitaph on her tomb is as follows:
Anne, the wife of Anthony Forster,
Died the 10th of June, 1799,
At the age of 74 years,
And was buried in the church of St. Andrew,
At Cumnor, in the county of Gloucester.

ANNE.

Anna Rebecca Williams, daughter of
Thomas Williams, of the parish of St. Andrew,
Cumnor, in the county of Gloucester,
Died the 10th of June, 1799,
At the age of 74 years,
And was buried in the church of St. Andrew,
At Cumnor, in the county of Gloucester.
The epitaph on her tomb is as follows:
Anne, the wife of Anthony Forster,
Died the 10th of June, 1799,
At the age of 74 years,
And was buried in the church of St. Andrew,
At Cumnor, in the county of Gloucester.

TRANSLATION.

ANTHONY.

Most soon of a gentle ancestry,
The Lord of Cumnor, Devon, was Anthony,
A life and Forster his departed sire
Of wealth, Salop, or rather Exeter,
Four branches spring from the parental tree,
The Anthony the last thereof to be,
His wit and sense was high,—high courage,—active frame,—
A voice melodious,—speech that ready came
Upright in action,—scent in talk to shine,—
Of aspect grave,—firm he in faith divine,
True patriot,—to aid the weakly glad,—
To those to his other virtues must be add,
Death, All-grasper, took not all away,
What took it, Forster the giving did repay,
For e'er the treble lute-string did he know,
And ply too the Italian viol and bow,
To plant the growing tree his pleasure o'er,—
A gently bolder he, his designer o'er,—
Expert he in the varied speech of men,—
And journal pages many from his pen.

ANNE.

Anthony's daughter of Rumney, Williams, he
Of his own merit reached a degree,
Widened rather, younger though, well-known to fame,
Of his own holy rank, the pride of Thames?
I cannot say, but was Anne's, and gentle birth,
A young, well-bred, and in her proper worth,
Gentle, good, devout, and neighbourly held to be,
The mother forth, that too in those she bore,
First John she bore, and then, with life full passed,
Anne, the wife of Anthony, and Henry last,
I cannot say, but was Anne's, and gentle birth,
A young, well-bred, and in her proper worth,
Gentle, good, devout, and neighbourly held to be.

From the original, written in the hand of the author, Mr. Forster, in 1770.

(1) no longer must we own brother
of the city, when we see his rich
house, built in a handsome style,
it is surely the house of a scholar,
brought by Henry Forster, 33. Below
as was shown to me, Henry Forster
born 1725 to 1833.
Let us see the story of Henry Forster
who in 1725, appeared a student
of a university, and in 1727
was in London, or in 1728, he died
in a hospital, on the side of London,
and was buried in the church of St. Andrew,
in the year 1728. The burial
of his wife, Anne, was in the
church of St. Andrew, in the year 1799.

Henry Forster, born in 1725, was a student
of a university, and in 1727
was in London, or in 1728, he died
in a hospital, on the side of London,
and was buried in the church of St. Andrew,
in the year 1728. The burial
of his wife, Anne, was in the
church of St. Andrew, in the year 1799.

Fig. 54.

Walton Adams & Sons. Reading
Tablet in Chancel.



Fig. 55.



Taunt, Oxford.

Corbels supporting the Chancel Arch.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

Tombs in South Chapel.

Fig. 56.



Taunton, Oxford.

Abbots Tomb and Piscina, South Chapel.



Fig. 58.



Taunt, Oxford.
Image Brackets, South Chapel.



Taunt, Oxford.
The Pulpit and Reading Desk.



Taunt, Oxford.
Nave Arcade and Tower Arch.

CUMNOR CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

Fig. 61.

The Font and Spiral Staircase.

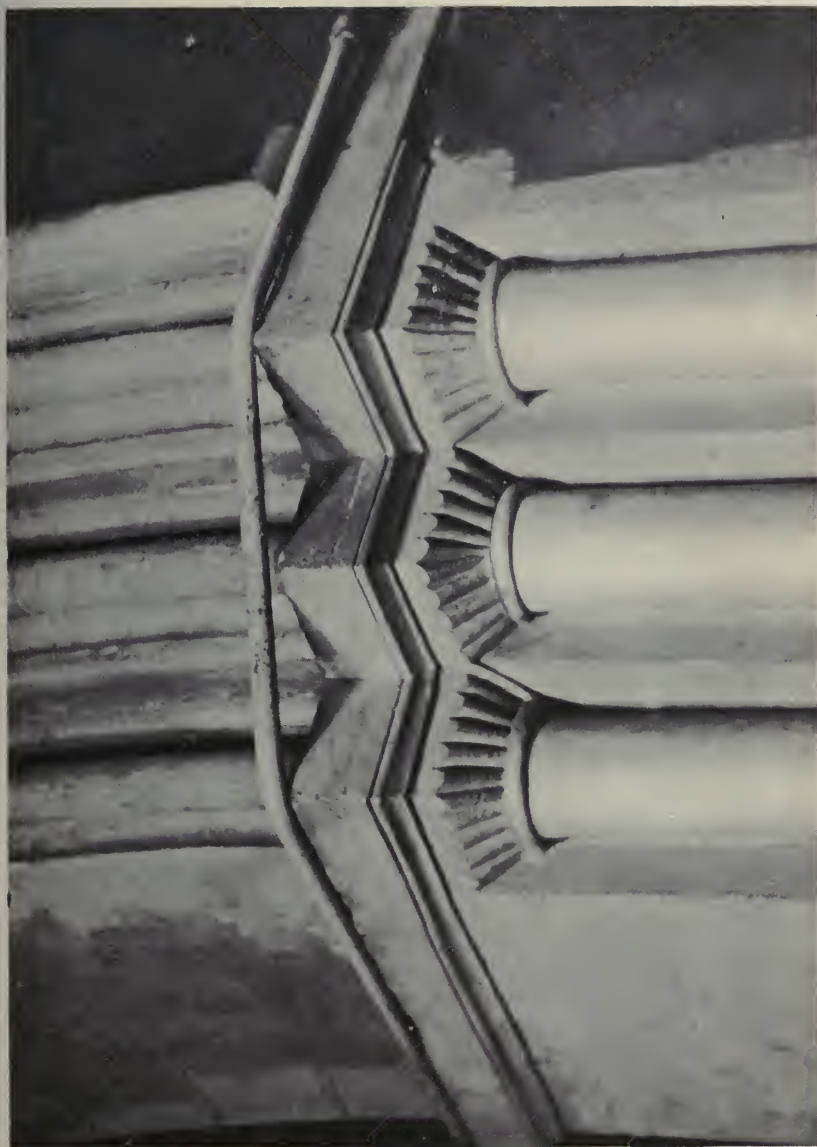
CUMNOR CHURCH.



Taunt, Oxford.

Fig. 62.

Norman Corbels in North Aisle.

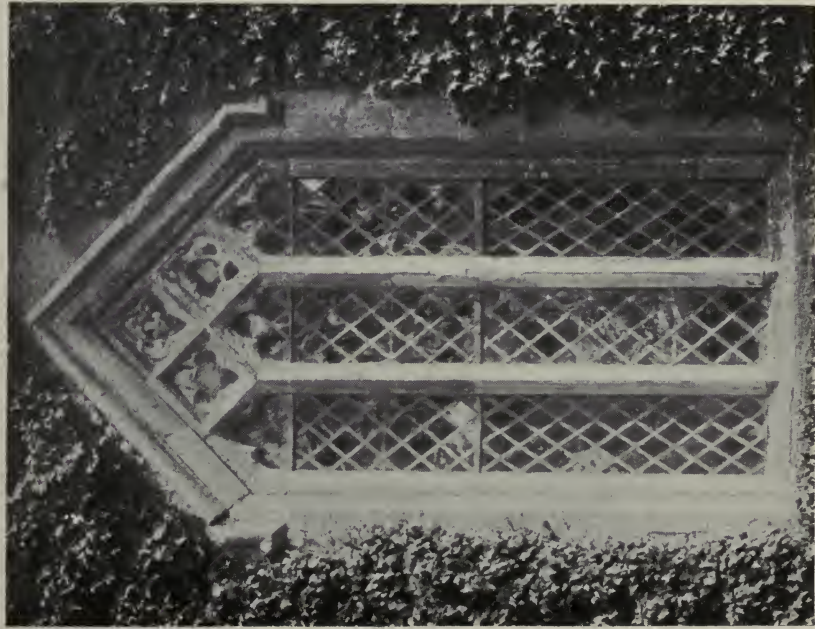


Tautai, Oxford.
Capitals of Tower Arch.



Taunt, Oxford.
From the East.

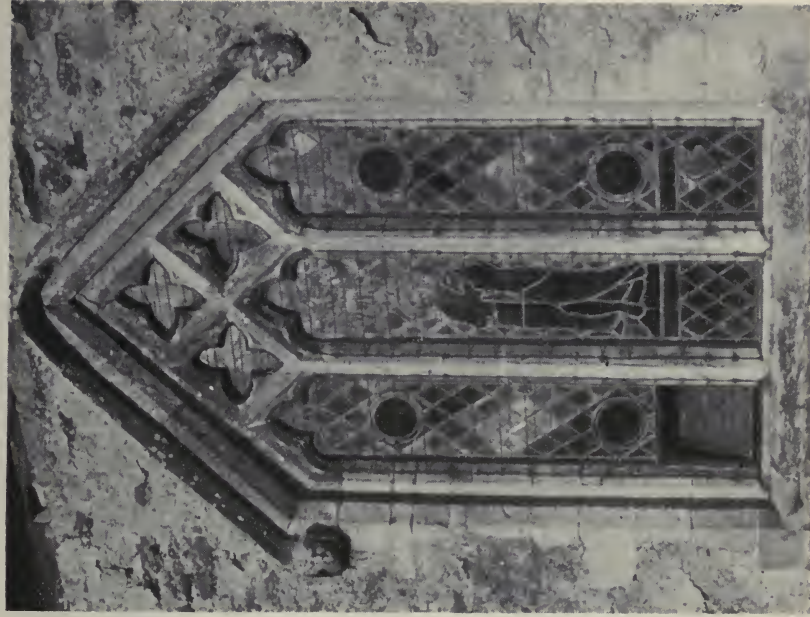
Fig. 64.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

West Window of South Chapel.

Fig. 65a.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

Decorated Window.

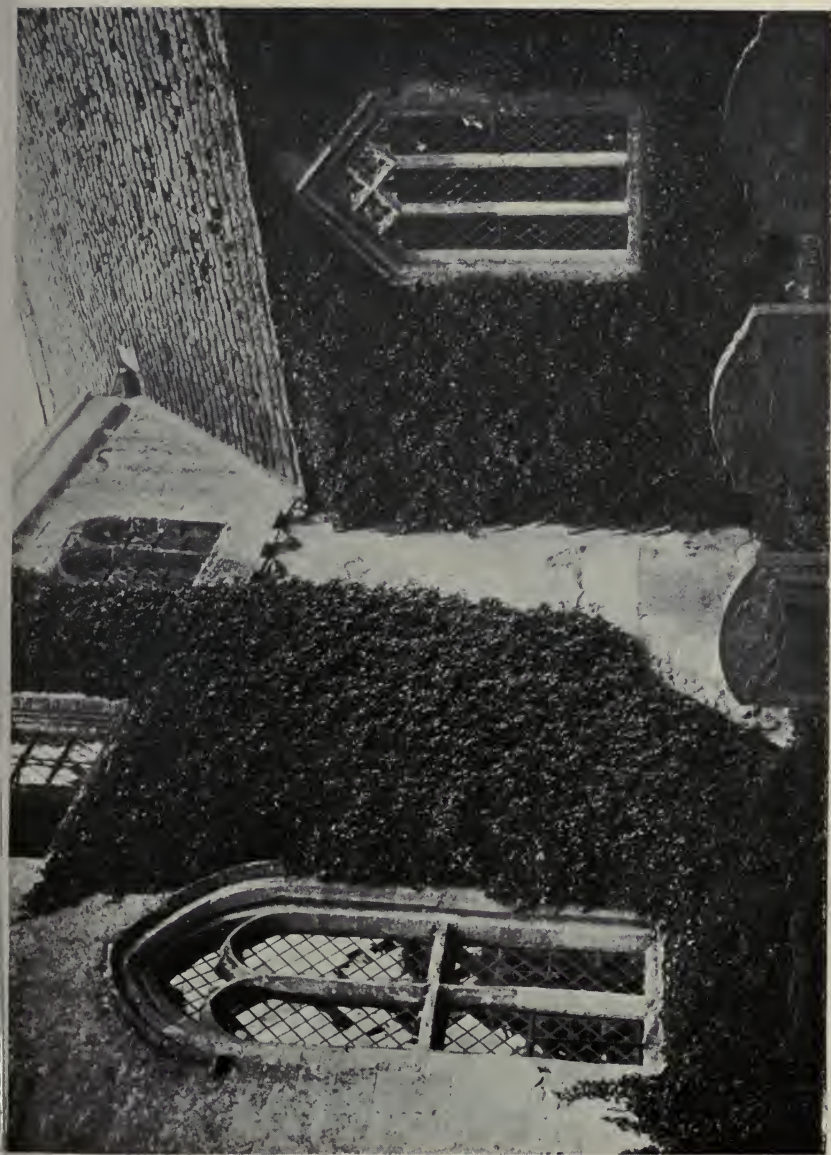
Fig. 65b.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

Fig. 66.

Norman Corbel Table, South Side of Nave.



Taunt, Oxford.
South Window of Nave, Corbel Table and West Window of South Chapel.

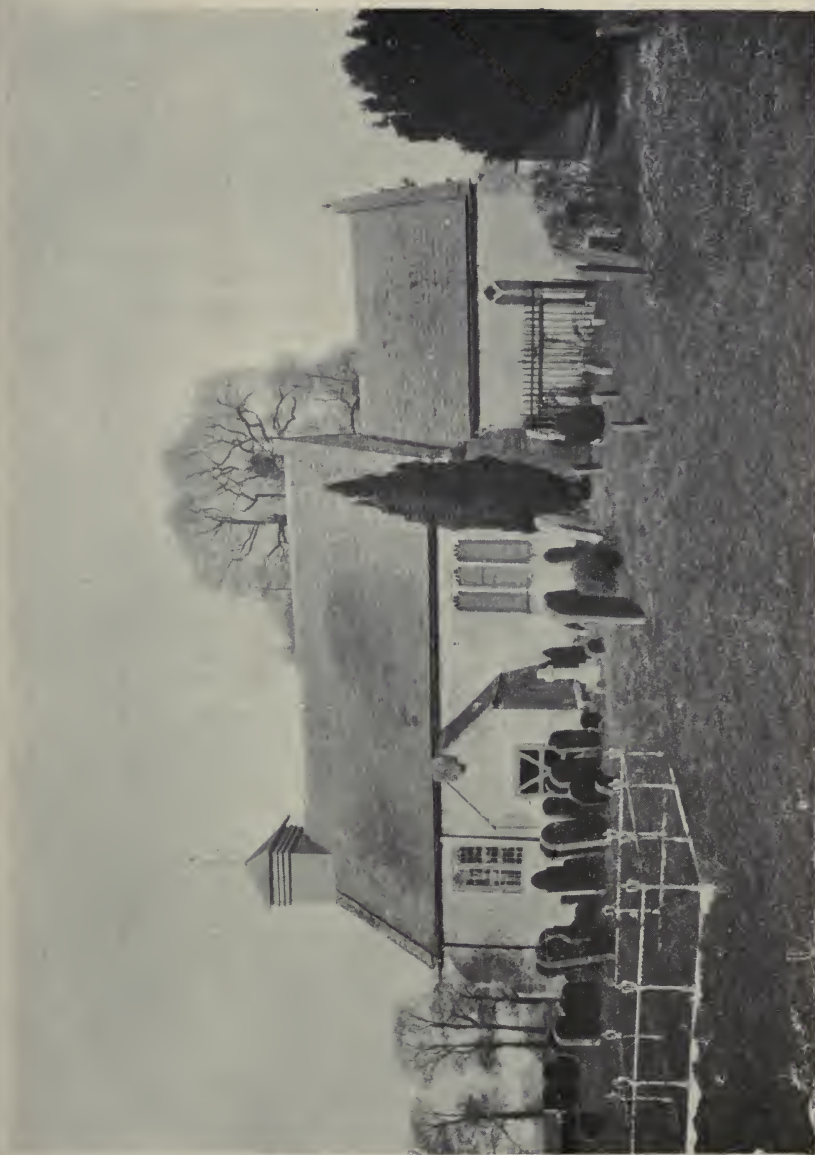
CUMNOR CHURCH.



Taunt, Oxford.

Fig. 69.

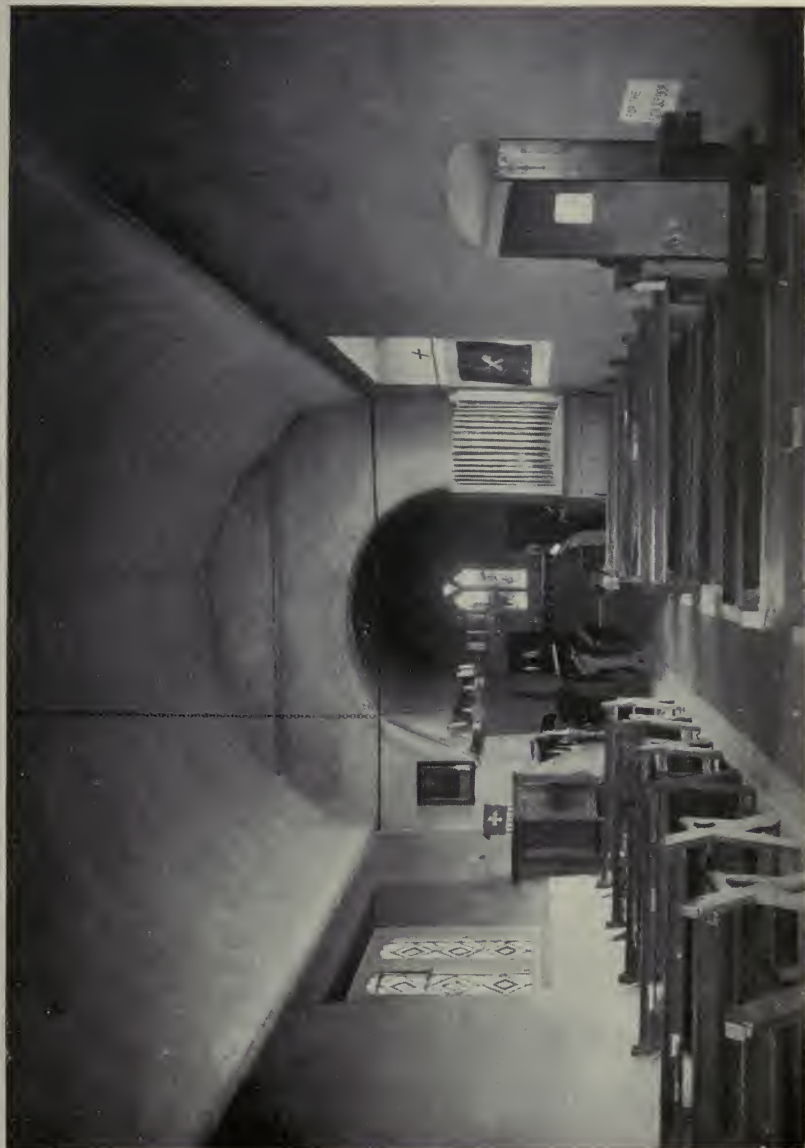
West Doorway and Window.



Taimi, Oxford.

From the South.

Fig. 70.



Teant, Oxford.

Interior looking East.

Fig. 71.

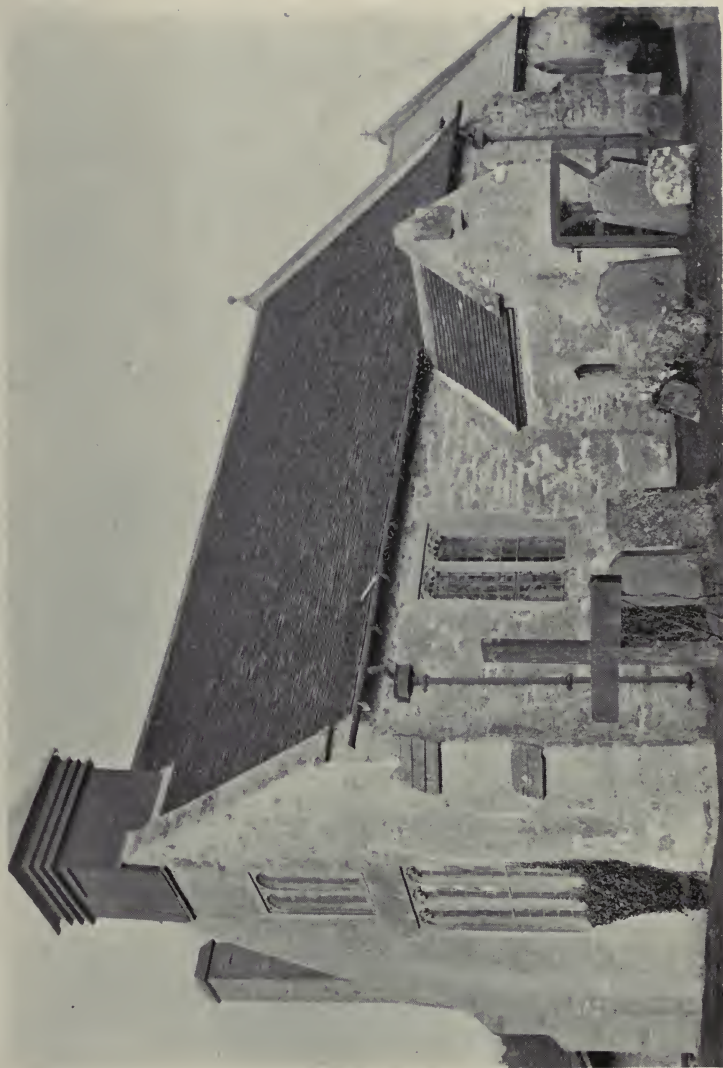


Walton Adams & Sons. Reading

Chancel Arch and Chancel.

Fig. 72.

WOOTTON CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

From the South West.

Fig 73.



Taunton, Oxford.

From the South West.

Fig. 74.



Taunton, Oxford.
From the South East.



Taunt, Oxford.
Interior Looking East.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

Poppyheads in the Nave.

Fig. 77.

SUNNINGWELL CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading.

Fig. 78.

The West Porch and Yew Tree.

SUNNINGWELL CHURCH.



Walton Adams & Sons, Reading

Fig. 79.

North Side of Nave and Tower.



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

THE EDITORS are extremely sorry that the last number of the Journal was issued so late. This is entirely due to the exigencies caused by the War. It is very difficult to get anything printed in these days, and our publishers are sorely tried by having men called up for service. The increased cost of printing and publishing is enormous, and a discontinuance of the issue of this Journal during the War has been seriously contemplated. It has been decided, however, to produce an enlarged number instead of two separate numbers for the remainder of the year 1917; and if circumstances are more favourable to begin 1918 with a January number. It has been an inconvenience inherited from the past to begin each volume with the April number, and this may now be rectified; and it is hoped that the Journal may appear quarterly and regularly in January, April, July and October. This must, of course, depend mainly upon the possibility of the printers being able to produce the Journal, and upon the support which it receives from its subscribers. It is hoped that there may be a large increase in their number. The Journal is just able to pay its way in ordinary times, but these times are not ordinary; and the financial burden of its production threatens to be heavier than the Proprietor cares to undertake. It would be unfortunate if its publication should cease. The valuable series of architectural notes on Berkshire Churches enriched by costly illustrations by the President of the Berks Archæological Society, Mr. Charles Edward Keyser, F.S.A., alone cries aloud against any interruption of its course, and we hope to publish in the new volume a very important contribution on Berkshire Bells by one of the chief authorities on the subject of Campanology, Mr. H. B. Walters. We hope that antiquaries in Oxfordshire and Bucks will contribute to our pages, so that the interest of the Journal may extend throughout the whole district; and if the times were only favourable we should like to extend our borders and our pages and treat of the whole region of the Home Counties. Perhaps this may be accomplished in the future.

THE EDITORS.

Notes on the Churches of Fyfield, Besselsleigh, Appleton, Cumnor, Wootton, and Sunningwell.

By Charles E. Keyser, M.A., F.S.A., President.

COMMUNICATED TO THE BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
MARCH 29th, 1917.

(Continued from page 41.)

The Parish Church of Appleton (Fig. 36) is dedicated to St. Lawrence, and the President and Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, are now the Patrons of the living. At the time of the dissolution of the Monasteries the Abbey of Abingdon is returned as holding a portion of the Rectory at the annual value of twelve shillings. The Church consists of a west tower, nave, north aisle, north and south porch, chancel and north chapel. The nave was partially restored in 1883, but the whole Church had previously been subjected to the most drastic treatment in the late 18th or early 19th century, and most of its former architectural features were then swept away.

The earliest surviving relic of the former Church is the font, which dates from the Norman period. The arcade between the nave and aisle is of transitional Norman date of about the end of the 12th century. There are some renewed Decorated windows, and the tower and south porch and door were added in the late 15th century. Parker in the "Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography, Diocese of Oxford," devotes only seven lines to its description.

Taking our stand in the interior of the Chancel (Fig. 37), we note that the east window is new, in the Decorated style. It is of three lights and similar in its design to the east and west windows at Besselsleigh and the Chancel windows at Hatford old Church. The roof is underdrawn. There is a late square headed two-light low side window on south side. The Chancel is separated from the Chapel by three semi-circular arches of painted deal of the Georgian period, and there is no doubt of the date when such extensive "churchwarden renovation" was carried out. On

the south side is the large table tomb to Sir John Fetiplace, erected as stated to his memory in 1593 by his son Besil. Sir John died in 1580. (Fig. 38) His effigy is represented in armour with sword at his side, ruff round his neck, bareheaded and hands clasped on breast. He lies on a plain table tomb, and above is a lofty canopy supported on a Corinthian column with richly sculptured capital at each outer angle. At the back within an elaborate frame, surmounted by a skull and cherub on either side, is a long inscription in capital type. The canopy is flat and has an obelisk shaped pinnacle on each side, and above the central portion within rich foliage the shield with the arms quarterly, 1 and 4 Fetiplace, 2 Besils, and 3 Leigh, and above the helmet and crest. The inscription, a very long one and a genealogy of the deceased and the two succeeding generations, is in Latin and runs as follows :—

ANNO DOM. 1593.

JACET HIC, OPTIME LECTOR, SUB SPE BEATÆ RESURRECTIONIS REPOSITUM CORPUS JOHANNIS FETIPLACE MILITIS QUO UT PATRIÆ NON FUIT STUDIOSIOR ITA NEC CHARIOR ALTER BIS MATRIMONIO JUNCTUS FUIT EX PRIMA CONJUGE ELIZABETHA FILIA ANTONII HUNGERFORD MILITIS QUATUOR SUSCEPIT FILIOS ET TRES FILIAS BESILIUM RICARDUM ROBERTUM EGIDIUM DOROTHEAM MARGARETAM ATQUE JANAM. BESILIUS FILIUS NATU MAXIMUS IN UXOREM DUXIT HELINORAM FILIAM RICHARDI COVERT ARMIGERI EX QUA GENUIT SEX FILIOS ET QUINQUE FILIAS RICHARDUM ED : VARDUM THOMAM MICHAЕLEM JOHANNEM GUILIELMUM JANAM MARIAM EDITHAM ELI ZABETHAM ATQUE CECILIAM. RICHARDUS BESILII FILIUS DUXIT IN UXOREM HELINORAM FILIAM HENRICI POOLE MILITIS EX QUA GENUIT FILIUM JOHANNEM JAM QUATUOR ANNOS NATUM. MARIA ET ELIZABETHA OBIERE INFANTES. RELIQUA BESILII PROLES AC RICHARDUS EORUM PATRUUS VIVUNT ADHOC, CÆTERI JOHANNIS LIBERI OBIERE CÆLIBESO ET PLERIQUE PUERI EX SECUNDA CONJUGE JANA FILIA JOHANNIS COVERT ARMIGERI UNICAM GENUIT FILIOLAM MARGARETAM CUJUS INTACTUM CORPUS HIC QUOQUE SEPULTUM JACET. IPSE JOHANNES FETIPLACE EX HAC VITA DISCESSIT 28 DIE DECEMB. 1580, INSIGNE RELINQUENS TROPHÆUM POSTERIS SUIS FAMÆ PURÆ VITÆ INTEGRÆ ET AMORIS IN PATRIAM, CUJUS SUBITAM ATQUE INTEMPESTIVAM MORTEM ACCUSAT VICINUS LACHRYMATUR VIDUA DEPLORAT PAUPER QUERUNTUR OMNES. BESILIUS FETIPLACE FILIUS EJUS HOC ILLI DE SE OPTIME MERITO ET PIO PARENTI PIETATIS ERGO MONUMENTUM POSUIT ANNO DOMINI 1593.

MIHI EST CHRISTUS ET IN
VITA ET IN MORTE LUCRŪ.

TEMPORA QUI LONGE SPERAS FELICIA VITÆ,
SPES TUA FRUSTRATA EST EN TIBI TESTIS EGO.

A full translation is given in Ashmole's "Antiquities of Berkshire," and it seems hardly necessary to set it out in detail here. Sir John was of course a member of the important family who were settled at Besselsleigh, Childrey, Denchworth, East Shefford, Fernham, and elsewhere in Berkshire and the adjoining Counties.

In the Visitations for Berkshire published by the Harleian Society in 1907, we find in Vol. I. p. 90, from the Visitation for 1623, an illustration of the armorial shield and crest, exactly as on the monument at Appleton, but no mention is made of Sir John Fetiplace. On page 56 in the Visitation for 1566 is set out an

"interpolated leaf" under Feteplace of East Shefford, in which are given details of the families of Rycharde, John and Edmond respectively, and then we read: "John ffeitiplace of Besselles † Lee
 "aforesaide Esquire eldist sonne and heire to Edmonde married
 "Elizabeth Daughter to Sr Anthonye Hungerforde of Downe
 "Amney in the Countie of Wiltes Knighte, and by her hathe yssue
 "Bessiles ffeitiplace his eldist Sonne, and heire apparante, Rycharde
 "seconde Sonne, and Dorothey. Besilles ffeitiplace of Bessilles Lee
 "aforesaide Esquire, eldist Sonne and heire apparant to John,
 "married Eleanor daughter of Rycharde Covert of Slaugham in
 "Com' Sussex Esquire ‡ and by her hathe as yet no yssue."

Jane a sister of Elizabeth Hungerforde was married to Mr. William Forster of Aldermaston, and is commemorated on a brass in Aldermaston Church.

The monument is a good example of its kind. It is placed against the eastern portion of the south wall, and no doubt conceals the piscina, which formerly existed here. In Ashmole's time the monument was "encompassed with Iron Pallisadoes," but these have disappeared.

The only other object of interest in the Chancel is a shroud brass on the floor (Fig. 39). Here we have a figure of the deceased, emaciated and in his grave clothes. Haines in his work on Monumental Brasses, Vol. I. note pp. clxxi and ii., tells us that the custom of thus portraying the deceased is found at an earlier date on the Continent, and it appears to have been very commonly adopted in England in the 15th and early 16th centuries. A long list is given, and another example in Berkshire is to be found on the fine brass of Joan, Widow of Robert Strangbon, 1507, at Childrey Church. There are several in Bucks and Oxfordshire. The following inscription in old English lettering remains below:—

Here lyeth John goodryngton gentylmā [which decessid the last day
 of Decembr An dni MCCCCXVIII. Of yo' charite [py for hys soule and
 for Dorathe his wyfe which aft his dthe toke relygon [in y monastery of syon.

The principle of this and the cadaver effigies as exemplified at Fyfield is of course the same.*

† "Called Sir John ffeitiplace Knighte. Note by the same hand on folio 173 b."

‡ A note on folio 173 b. by the same hand adds, "and sister to Sr Walter
 "Covert knighte, and had yssue Rycharde. Who married the daughter of Sr
 "Henry Poole of Gloc knighte and hathe yssue."

* To the list given on page 35 may be added: An emaciated figure at North Curry, Somerset; Wooden Monument of Sir Roger Rockley, 1522, at Worsborough Church, Yorkshire, with effigy of the knight above, and cadaver below. *Howard and Crossley, English Church Woodwork*, pp. 354, 359.

The north chapel has been drastically restored in the Georgian period, the windows are all debased and nothing of interest has been spared. The raised altar pace still remains against the east wall.

The Chancel arch is new. On the south of the nave is a new two-light window in the Decorated style, and farther west a two-light window of the Perpendicular period. The roof is high pitched and mainly of the same date. Opening to the aisle, which is of about the same width as the nave, are four arches (Figs. 40 and 41), plain obtusely pointed with chamfered edge, resting on low cylindrical columns with chamfered abacus and large and richly ornamented capitals. The east and west responds are plain, but the east has a band of scalloping with semi-circles above on the half capital below the abacus. On the eastern capital is some very bold and beautifully carved conventional foliage (Fig. 42), the middle one beaded, intersecting semi-circular arches enclosing leaves and with bunch foliage at the angles (Fig. 43), and the western one, a leaf at each angle. The sculpture is very good, and the date of the arcade is of the transitional Norman period of the end of the 12th century. The tower arch, blocked up, is Perpendicular with outer order carried down without imposts to the ground, the inner resting on mutilated capitals. The west window is plain Perpendicular of two lights. The tower has the unique distinction in Berkshire of possessing ten musical bells, on which many noted peals have been rung. There was, and still is, a celebrated family named White located here, who were skilled in all branches of campanology, and one of them, Frederick, is commemorated in the Churchyard with an upright iron sepulchral memorial exhibiting the ten bells within a circle.

The north aisle has received the same treatment as the Chapel, the windows all being debased. At the west end is the font (Fig. 44), the most ancient object remaining in the Church. It was removed from the Church many years ago and utilised as a flower pot. It was restored to its position in 1883. It is of the Norman period, and has a plain cup-shaped bowl slightly diminishing towards the base. It stands on the circular base of a more ornate font with vertical bands enclosing small pellets or beads within a hollow, and a half-round encircling the lower part. It is very similar to the fine font at Finchampstead. It has a well carved pyramidal cover of wood of the 17th century. A portion of the base was dug up in the Rectory garden in 1914, and restored to its place in the Church.

There is not much of interest on the exterior of the Church. The north porch is debased. The outer arch of south porch (Fig. 45) is late four centred Perpendicular with square label above and a niche for image within the gable. The doors are of the same date and studded with iron nails. There is an oblong opening in east and west wall of porch, and a mutilated stoup and canopy in the north east corner. The south doorway has plain chamfered edge to the arch and jambs. There are two low receding buttresses on south of nave, and a plain doorway on the south side of the Chancel. The tower (Fig. 45) is of stone embattled, with two-light belfry windows, a plain two-light west window on lower stage, and a square-headed west doorway with four centred arch and quatrefoils within the spandrels. There is a small turret, carried up to the middle stage on the south east side. There is a small conical addition to the tower. The Church is built of rough stone, partially coated with rough-cast.

A drive of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles will land us at Cumnor, a place full of interest, both from its historical associations and fine Church. On the former we can only dare to touch lightly. The parish was formerly much larger than now, and included Wytham, North and South Hinksey and Wootton, which have now been carved out of it as separate parishes. The manor was granted by Ceadwalla 684—9 to Abingdon Abbey as part of its endowment, and with an interval of about 150 years, owing to its having been confiscated by King Alfred, but restored again by King Edgar in 968, it was closely associated with the religious life of the Abbey up to the time of the dissolution of the Monasteries. The Abbot of Abingdon was at the same time Rector of Cumnor, and about the middle of the 14th century built Cumnor Place, which stood close to the Church, to serve as a rectory, and a health resort for the monks. It was granted as a residence for his life to Thomas Pentecost, alias Rowland, the last abbot, who was buried in the Chancel. On the occasion of a visit by the members of the Newbury and District Field Club in 1907 (see Vol. V. p. 144 of the Proceedings), a very interesting paper was read on the spot by the late Mr. James Parker strongly supporting the theory that Amy Robsart, who as Lady Dudley resided at Cumnor Place, met with her death by accident, and not by foul play, and condemning in vigorous language the story of her murder recounted by Sir Walter Scott in *Kenilworth*. Mr. Walter Money, while not desiring to cross swords with him pointed out the suspicion which attached to Lord Dudley, after-

wards Earl of Leicester, and that contemporary opinion favoured the theory that he was responsible for his wife's death. Lysons, who adopted this view, states that in his time at the beginning of the 19th century the house, though only a shell was still standing, but it was shortly afterwards pulled down, and the materials used in rebuilding Wytham Church. It seems to have been built round a quadrangle, and mainly of the 14th century Decorated period.

The Parish Church (Figs. 46, 47, and 48), dedicated to St. Michael, is of great architectural interest. It consist of a west tower, nave, north aisle and porch, south chapel and Chancel. The tower, nave and chancel are of late Norman date, the aisle was added in the 13th and the south chapel early in the 14th century. Several of the windows were inserted at this same date. The roofs of the nave and aisle are of 15th century date. There are many interesting details, which will be pointed out in the description of the Church. Let us, as usual, commence this in the interior of the Chancel (Fig. 49).

The east window is of three lights of the Decorated period with good geometrical tracery, and with an interior label to the arch. On the south side are two two-light windows in the same style. On the north side near the west end is an obtusely pointed lancet with a row of flat pellets round the arch and down the jambs (Fig. 49A). This is of the transitional Norman period of the Church, of the latter part of the 12th century. In the south east corner is a buttress-like projection with a band of the pellet ornament. There is a plain oblong recess for the piscina in the south wall. The altar rails are of the Jacobean, early 17th century, period, with well moulded baluster shafts. The Chancel stalls are very good with richly carved poppy heads to the bench ends, one (Fig. 50) with the implements of the Passion, on three shields on each side, viz., on the west : (1) the traitor's bag, the cock, and the seamless coat, (2) the ladder, spear, and reed and sponge, (3) three nailheads, pincers, and hammer ; on the east : (1) the cross, (2) the monogram, IHC, (3) the five wounds, on the heart, hands and feet. A second has two lizards carved on it, another, two bearded heads, and a fourth (Fig. 51) two seraphim standing back to back with folded wings and clasped hands, and trampling on the necks of two ferocious looking dragons. The carving is very bold, and probably of 15th century date.

On the north side of the Chancel near the east end is the tomb (Fig. 52) of Anthony Forster and Anne his wife, daughter of Rain-old Williams of Burghfield. The monument is mainly in the

Perpendicular style, and it seems possible that it was originally erected as an Easter Sepulchre about the year 1500, and was adapted with some slight alterations by Anthony Forster about seventy years later. It has a flat canopy with bold cresting and cornice enriched with large quatrefoils within circles. Within one on the west side is the armorial shield of Anthony, and on the east that of his wife. The canopy is supported on four columns with Ionic capitals. These stand on the table of the tomb. The front is divided into three richly carved panels with small oblong compartment between each and at the ends. Within the main panels is, on west, the shield of Anthony, that in the centre of Anthony impaling that of his wife, and that on east of the wife. At the back of the canopied portion are the brass effigies (Fig. 53) of Anthony and Anne, he on the west and she on the east side. They are kneeling with clasped hands, facing each other, on hassocks in front of faldstools, on each of which is an open book. He is bareheaded, in complete armour, with his helmet on the ground by his side. She is also bareheaded and habited in a long robe, open at the neck, and with slashed sleeves, a good example of the dress of the Elizabethan period. Behind her kneel her three sons in civilian attire. One would have expected to find them behind the father, and not the mother, as in this instance. In the centre, between the main figures, is a large shield in brass with the tinctures exhibited in coloured enamels. It has the arms of Anthony, viz., quarterly 1 and 4 arg. three bugle horns stringed sable, 2 and 3 sable three pheons arg., this is flanked by rich mantling, and above is the helmet, and the crest a stag couchant pierced by an arrow. Behind him is another brass shield with his arms impaling those of his wife, and behind her a third shield with her arms, which are given under Williams of Burfield, in Vol. II. page 229 of the Visitations of Berkshire, published by the Harleian Society in 1908. They are described as follows : Quarterly, 1 and 4 Williams, azure two organ pipes in saltire, the sinister surmounted by the dexter, between four crosses pattee Argent, 2 More, Argent a moor-cock (?) Sable, 3 Fox, [Gules] a chevron ermine between three lions' heads erased Or, on a chief barry nebulée Argent and Vert, a pale [Sable] charged with a pelican Or, all within a bordure of the same charged with ten hurts.

On a large brass plate below are the following inscriptions in Latin verse :—

(1) Under his effigy—

Antonius forster generis generosa propago,
 Cumneræ dominus Barcheriensis erat.
 Armiger armigero prognatus patre Richardo,
 Qui quondam Iphlethæ Salopiensis erat.
 Quatuor ex isto fluxerunt stemmate nati,
 Ex isto Antonius stemmate quartus erat.
 Mente sagax, animo præcellens, corpore promptus,
 Eloquio dulcis, ore disertus erat.
 In factis probitas, fuit in sermone venustas,
 In vultu gravitas, Relligione fides.
 In patriam pietas, in egenos grata voluntas,
 Accedunt reliquis annumeranda bonis.
 Sic quod cuncta rapit, rapuit non omnia læthum
 Sed quæ mors rapuit, vivida fama dedit.

(2) Under the effigy of his wife—

Anna Rainoldo wiliams fuit orta parente
 Evasit meritis armiger ille suis.
 Sed minor huic frater, præstante laude Baronis
 Thamensis viguit gloria magna soli.
 Armiger ergo pater, dominus sed avunculus Annæ,
 Clara erat hiis, meritis clarior Anna suis.
 Casta viro, studiosa Dei, dilecta propinquis,
 Stirpe beata satis, prole beata satis.
 Mater Joannis, mediaq ætate Roberti
 Et demum Henrici nobilis illa parens.
 Cynthia Penelope tumulo clauduntur in isto,
 Anna sed hoc tumulo sola sepulta jacet.
 Argutæ resonas citharæ prætereundere chordas
 Novit, et aonia concrepasse lyra.
 Gaudebat terræ teneras defigere plantas,
 Et mira pulchras construere arte domos.
 Composita varias lingua formare loquelas
 Doctus, et edocta scribere multa manu.

This inscription is copied out on a panel (Fig. 54) hanging on the wall near the tomb, and a free translation is there given. (Ashmole in the Antiquities of Berkshire also translates it into English.) On the same panel some account of the Forsters and the Manor is given, whence we learn that after the death of Anthony Forster, the Manor came to the Earl of Leicester, and afterwards to the Earl of

Abingdon, to whom it now belongs. It is claimed that the epitaph could not have been written till after Anne Forster's death in 1599, but the lettering appears to be too early for that date, and it may well have been composed and inscribed on the tomb soon after Anthony's death in 1572, and during her lifetime.

These certainly seem to commemorate a highly esteemed couple, and clearly indicate that Anthony was a popular and cultured gentleman, fond of music, botany, architecture, and a good linguist, and not the bloodthirsty ruffian portrayed by Sir Walter Scott in his novel "Kenilworth." One can hardly believe that so flattering an epitaph could have been composed and inserted on the tomb, had he really been guilty of the crime attributed to him.

On the Chancel floor is the brass with effigies of a civilian and lady, standing, facing each other with clasped hands, and above them the following inscription:—

Yedythe Stavertoon dafter
to Rayg'nald-Wyllyams of
Borfeld in the Countye of
Bark essquyer.

In Ashmole's time there was a shield with the Staverton arms, a chevron between three maunches. This lady was a sister of Anne Forster and wife of Deodatus Staverton. The date is c. 1580.

There is a second brass with portraiture of a lady richly habited and standing with clasped hands, and with two sons standing by her side. Below is the following inscription:—

Here lyeth the body of Katherin sometyme the
Wyffe of Henry Staverton Gent and Daughter of
Raynold Wyllyams of Borgfeld in the Countie of
Bark Esquier who Dyed a good Christian the xxv
daye of Dec of our lorde God. 1577.

In Ashmole's time there were portraits of three sons "the first hath on a Divine Gown," and two daughters, also shields charged with the arms of Staverton and Williams. Katherine was also sister of Anne Forster, and her husband was brother to Deodatus Staverton who married her sister Edith.

The Chancel arch is very wide and rather low, with hoodmould and fluted outer and chamfered inner order, the latter resting on very richly carved foliated corbels (Fig. 55), that on the north having a beading of nailheads in a hollow below the undercut

abacus, It dates from the latter half of the early English period, circ. 1250. Under the arch is the lower part of the Chancel screen, Jacobean, with well-carved baluster shafts.

On the south side of the nave near the east end is a well-moulded decorated arch opening to the south chapel, dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury. The south window of the chapel is of three lights rather poor in the Decorated style. On the east is a two-light of the same period, and on the west a very interesting three-light triangular-headed window, within containing arch, with three lozenge-shaped compartments, two and one, in the head, enclosing eight foils. There are three small roundels in old glass in the head. The window is of the Decorated period, and almost exactly similar to one at the neighbouring Church of North Hinksey. In the south wall are two founders' tombs (Fig. 56), the western one much renewed. They have a continuous hoodmould on central head, well-moulded arches with elegant fringe of semi-circles enriched with cinquefoils, and with foliage on the main cusps. Within each arch is a cross coffin lid. It is stated that this was a mortuary chapel for the Abbey of Abingdon, and that two of the Abbots were buried here, one probably being William of Comenore, who was alleged to have been the builder of the Manor House, who became Abbot in 1333, and died, according to Dugdale in the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, in 1335. This date would accord very well with the architectural features of the chapel and tombs. In the east wall is a very pretty late Decorated piscina (Fig. 57) with hoodmould and trefoil-headed ogee arch and flowing tracery within the canopy. Higher up in the east wall on either side of the window is a bracket on head for an image (Fig. 58). Under the arch opening from the nave to the chapel is preserved in a glass case a very fine specimen of an old chained Bible of date 1611. In the south-east corner of the nave is the old oak Jacobean pulpit and reading desk (Fig. 59). The pulpit has richly carved scroll work on the upper, and an ornamented circular medallion on each of the lower panels. The reading desk is square, very large, with ornamented medallions on the upper cornice and with two tiers (and part of a third) of square panels, with a diamond-shaped ornament within each. Opening from the nave (Fig. 60) to the north aisle are three arches with continuous hoodmould on heads, fluted outer and chamfered inner order. The responds are plain with small engaged angle shafts having the fillet band and plain undercut abacus. The eastern column is octagonal, the western cylindrical, with plain moulded

capitals. They are of the same date as the Chancel arch, viz., about the middle of the 13th century. On the south side of the nave is a long two-light window with cross transom, of the Decorated period. There are two clerestory windows on this side near the east end, the eastern, Decorated of three lights, the western of two lights, Perpendicular. On the north side are four clerestory windows, three of two lights, Perpendicular, and the fourth debased. The nave roof is debased, but rests on quaint stone corbels. The font (Fig. 61) at the west end of the nave is modern in the Decorated style, and a copy of the very beautiful 14th century example at Shottesbrooke.

In the north aisle are two windows on the north and one in the west wall, all of two lights and rather poor specimens of the Decorated period. In the head of the west on north window is in old glass the kneeling figure of a lady and part of an inscription. In the south wall at the east end is a beautiful piscina, an exact replica of that in the south chapel. Inserted in the north wall are several quaint human corbels (Fig. 62), four with monster heads and one with a lion, probably preserved from the old Norman corbel table. At the west end is a statue in Caen stone of Queen Elizabeth. It is said to have been originally placed by the Earl of Dudley in the gardens of Cumnor Place, and when the house was dismantled to have been removed to Wytham, whence it was recovered and presented to the Church. The tower arch is fine obtusely pointed transitional Norman, with roll on the hoodmould and three reveals each with the roll moulding supported on a chamfered abacus and three engaged shafts with late form of scalloping on the capitals (Fig. 63). The abacus is continued on each side to the north and south walls. The west window is an obtusely pointed lancet of the transitional Norman period. The belfry stage is reached by a winding oak staircase (Fig. 61) within the tower of 17th century date. A date carved on it with the initials of the Churchwardens records its erection in 1685. There are six bells.

Leaving the Church by the north doorway, which is within a porch, we note that this is of the same date as the nave arcade. It has an undercut hoodmould, and two fluted orders. The door and ironwork are also old. The porch was rebuilt in 1857. The aisle parapets are not embattled. A cornice of roses runs along the north and south walls of the nave above the clerestory. The exterior walls, especially on the north side, are much obscured by ivy. The sancte bellcote on the east gable of the nave remains, and

surmounted by a floriated cross on this east wall are some heads in a cornice. The Chancel windows (Fig. 64) all have external hoodmoulds. There is a blocked priests' door on the north side. The west on south window of the Chancel is brought down to serve as a low side window. The east window of the south chapel has a hoodmould with plain terminations, as has also the triangular-headed west window (Fig. 65A). The corresponding window at North Hinksey (Fig. 65B) has a similar hoodmould terminating on heads. At the east end south side of nave, adjoining the chapel and below the clerestory, is a small portion of the original Norman corbel table with the usual grotesque carvings (Fig. 66). Four corbels remain, the east with two animals' heads, the next with human head with prick ears and open mouth showing two rows of teeth, the third rather obscure, perhaps a head and two arms, and the fourth now concealed by the ivy. The long decorated window on south of nave has a hoodmould with plain terminations (Fig. 67).

The tower is one of the best features of the Church, and with the exception of the upper embattled portion is of transitional Norman date of almost the end of the 12th century (Fig. 68). It is similar in its details to the fine example at Broadwater Church, near Worthing, Sussex. There are two lancets on each face of the upper stage, except on the south side, where there is only one, with continuous hoodmould connected by a stringcourse carried round the four sides, and roll mouldings on the arches, and above is a corbel table of late type, and quaint gurgoyne heads on the north side. The middle stage is plain. In the lower above the doorway (Fig. 69) is a similar lancet with hoodmould on heads. The west doorway is semicircular-headed with half round on the hoodmould and two recessed orders. The outer has an engaged roll on the angle, and is supported on a chamfered abacus and detached shafts with the acanthus on the capitals. The inner order has a later form of abacus and plain chamfered edge to arch and jambs. There are angle buttresses to the tower.

On the tombstone of Christian Hutt, who died in 1740, attached to the east wall of the Chancel, is the following laudatory inscription :—

“ Could exemplary worth or virtue save,
 “ One happier woman had escaped the Grave,
 “ From ev'ry Vice and female error free
 “ She was in fact what woman ought to be ;

"Envied no Queens, but pitied all their cares,
"Expecting crowns less troublesome than theirs."

On a panel in the Church are recorded many interesting events in connection with the Church. From this we learn that the Church was possibly reopened in its Norman form on March 26th, 1222, as the Bishop of Salisbury with a large number of clergy was at Cumnor on that day. We also find under date 1644 that "Sir William Waller with four hundred Parliamentary horse from Abingdon overran the Church, mounting the tower, removing the weathercock, and throwing down the stone cross from the south gable of the mortuary chapel." Another quaint entry, under date 1700, informs us: "The tower forcibly entered and tenor bell broken, at the secret instigation of Mr. John Sacheverell, of Denman's, Cumnor, said by Hearne to be the best judge of bells in England." In 1748 was the last certified case of public penance in the Church.

Extensive repairs to the Church were ordered by the Archdeacon's Court in 1812, various works were executed in 1827, 1851, 1857 and 1869, and several improvements carried out 1885-90. Mr. H. W. Taunt, of Oxford, has also collected much information about the parish and Church, which he has kindly placed at my disposal.

A drive of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles along the Abingdon road will bring us to Wotton, Wootton or Wooten, as it is variously called. Only a very brief notice of it is given by Lysons in his topographical and historical account of Berkshire, where we are told that it was a hamlet with a chapel of ease to Cumnor, till it was separated from the mother parish by the Earl of Abingdon early in the 18th century. The Abbey of Abingdon had a controlling influence at Wootton, as the Manor and Chapel followed the fortunes of the Manor and Church at Cumnor.

The Church, dedicated to St. Peter (Fig. 70), is described by Mr. J. H. Parker in the Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography, Diocese of Oxford, in a single sentence: "A late and poor P church much modernized." It is, however, not without interest, and may fairly claim a more detailed examination than that accorded to it by the late Mr. J. H. Parker. Like many other chapels previously described, *e.g.*, Lyford, Baulking, Goosey, etc., it consists of a west turret, nave with south porch and Chancel. The Chancel is much narrower and less lofty than the nave, and if one can judge from the windows is of earlier date than the nave. The east window (Fig. 70) is of two lights in the Decorated style, and on the

south side is a narrow two-light of rather earlier character. The Chancel arch (Fig. 71) is semi-circular, plain on plain imports, and is probably late Perpendicular of the 16th century. In the nave is a square-headed three-light Perpendicular window, both on north and south, and to the west of the doorway on the south side a two-light window, also square-headed late Perpendicular. There is a similar three-light window in the west wall. The font is very large with plain circular bowl on a smaller stem. It is of Norman character, but of modern date. The interior walls are all whitewashed, and the Chancel roof is underdrawn.

The north doorway within the porch is four-centred late Perpendicular. The porch has a single light in east and west wall, and a late Perpendicular outer arch (Fig. 72). There is a blocked up low side window on the south side of the Chancel. There are buttresses at the east and west angles of the nave, and east angles of the Chancel. Above the west window is a two-light square-headed debased Perpendicular window. The turret is of wood, and of no great age. The Church is built of stone.

A drive of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles will bring us to Sunningwell, a pretty little village in a secluded valley about two miles to the west of the Thames and three miles to the north of Abingdon. Its early history seems to be mainly connected with that at Cumnor. As in common with so many of the other parishes in this part of the County, it was in the possession of the Abbot and Convent of Abingdon, and so remained until the dissolution of the Monasteries, when the Manor was granted to the Baskerville family. Their residence was at Bayworth, a hamlet of the parish. Kennington was another hamlet, and here was formerly a chapel, which had fallen into ruins in Lysons' time. A modern chapel was built in 1828. Bishop Jewel was Rector or Curate of Sunningwell about 1550, and Samuel Fell, Dean of Christchurch, was also Rector and is buried here. The celebrated Bagley Wood was in this parish, but is now included in Kennington, which has been formed into a separate parish.

The Church, dedicated to St. Leonard (Figs. 74, 75), is cruciform, and consists of nave with west porch, north and south transepts, tower over the north transept and chancel. Parker, in the "Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography," describes it as "a small Church of mixed styles, mostly very late," and adds at the end "The Church is supposed to have been rebuilt by Bishop Jewell, who was curate there in his youth." He states that the walls are partly of early English date, and mentions some blocked up lancets on the north side of the Chancel. These are not now visible, as this wall is concealed by the ivy. The east window (Fig. 76) is

triangular-headed with three trefoil-headed lancets within a containing arch. It is described by Parker as early Decorated, but has been much renewed. On north side is a two-light square-headed debased Perpendicular window, and two more on the south, also square-headed of the Decorated period. The communion table is of fine carved oak, Elizabethan work.

On ledger stones near the communion table are the following inscriptions :—

- (1) Margaret Fell, wife to Dr. Fell,
late Deane of Christ Church, and Rector
of this Church was buried on the xxii^d
Day of Aprill, in the yeare of Christ, MDCLIII
Ætatis suæ 56.
Thomas Fell dyed August xxxi, MDCXXXII.
Elizabeth Fell died Dec. xix, MDCXXXIV.
Martha Fell, dyed Dec. xxiii, MDCXXXVII.
Thomas Washborne, dyed Aug. x, MDCXLIV.

- (2) Depositum
S F
February
MDCXLVIII.

[This commemorates Samuel Fell].

The Chancel arch is rather wide with shallow mouldings, and dies into the responds, which are quite plain. Its date is rather uncertain. The pulpit in the south-east corner of the nave is Jacobean. On north and south of nave are two three-light square-headed windows, and one four-centred at the west, all of the late Perpendicular period. The font has large octagonal bowl and stem of 15th century date. There is a series of old bench ends (Fig. 77) with richly carved poppy heads enriched with very bold foliage, probably of 15th century date. The arches opening from the nave to the transepts are four-centred of the same late date as most of the other features in the Church. In the north transept are three-light square-headed windows on north and east sides, and on a higher level a three-light on the north and a single light on east and west, all of the late Perpendicular type. This portion of the Church is under the tower. In the south transept is a three-light square-headed window on east and south sides, and on a higher level a debased two light window on the west.

The west doorway within the porch is four-centred Perpendicular. The porch (Fig. 78), alleged to have been built by Bishop

Jewell, is a curious mixture of the Classic and Gothic styles. It is seven-sided, and has at each angle an engaged column with capital of the Ionic type. There is a square-headed single-light window on five of the sides of late Perpendicular character and with external label. The outer doorway on the north side is of Classic design. The nave roof has the old lead and is low pitched. There is an embattled parapet on the north side (Fig. 79). All the windows, except those on the south of the Chancel, have external labels. There are buttresses at the angles of the Chancel, and at the west end, north and south sides of the nave. The tower (Fig. 80) is very good and late Perpendicular, the masonry being more carefully finished and of finer character than that of the rest of the Church. It is in two main stages with large battlements and slender pinnacles at the angles, the south-west having a belfry turret, also embattled, and carried up above the height of the main tower. A stringcourse runs round below the embattled portion, and on this are some quaint angle gargoyles, and a head in the centre on each side. There is a two-light square-headed window with label above on each face of the upper stage, and below, on the east and west sides, is a small oblong opening. A stringcourse divides the two stages. The windows in the lower stage have already been noted as being within the north transept. The Church is built of stone and rather rude masonry, with the exception of the tower. There is a very fine yew tree at the north-west side of the Church.

The following notes on Wootton Church by the Vicar, the Rev. W. J. F. K. Stride, have been communicated too late for insertion in their proper place in the Paper.

Note 1. Chancel not only about 300 years earlier than nave, but almost certainly built originally with no nave at all. This is suggested by

- (a) absence of any step from Nave to Chancel.
- (b) entire dissimilarity of Nave from Chancel in every particular; and
- (c) the discovery (1902) of fragments of the original west arch of Chancel, built into the wall of the Chancel arch: this arch was very low and narrow, and evidently formed the west (and only) entrance to a tiny Chapel.

Note 2. Chancel Arch. I remember that Mr. Allfrey, the architect of the rebuilding in 1902, spoke of it as a "7 centred" arch; I don't know what that is.

Note 3. Chancel Roof underdrawn. The roof is plastered over (or rather under) beams. So was that of the Nave, till in 1912 we stripped off the plaster and renewed some $\frac{3}{4}$ of the beams and rafters.

Additional note on the alterations and additions completed in 1912. Owing to subsidence in N.W. corner of Nave necessary to underpin. Advantage taken (1) to build a new vestry, with foundations 9ins. deep resting on rock, which should also form an efficient buttress; (2) to convert old Vestry (at N.E. corner) into Organ-Chamber, and (3) to open up roof as described in Note 3.

N.B.—The glass in E. window is by Kempe.

ALDERMASTON COURT,
NEAR READING,
December 3rd, 1917.

DEAR SIR,

May I ask you kindly to insert the accompanying letter in your next number of the Journal. I am always pleased to receive any corrections to my papers, especially with regard to the historical allusions, which, as a rule, are only of a superficial character.

I have found a note of another cadaver effigy of rather early date, at North Curry Church, Somersetshire.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. KEYSER.

The Editor.

WHITEFIELD,
ABINGDON,
October 26th, 1917.

DEAR MR. KEYSER,

I read with much interest your Notes on Fyfield Church in the April number of the "Archæological Journal" immediately on its issue. You may remember that I mentioned at the Club one day certain little inaccuracies which you said you might like to put right in the next article.

In the name of Golafre (p. 2) I have not previously seen an accent on the *e*. The contemporary pronunciation is perhaps indi-

cated by the fact that by Swift's time it had become "Gulliver."

As regards the story of Lady Gordon (p. 6), she is usually described as the daughter of George second Earl of Huntley, and not of Alexander the third Earl. According to the testimony of certain of the foreign ambassadors at the time she is said to have had two children by Warbeck, one of whom (a daughter) became the ancestress of the Pembroke family. (England under the Tudors, Busch). This does not quite square with your notes where you consider that both the indents represent boys. It is a little singular that in her will—full of human interests as it is—Katherine makes no reference to these children or to Warbeck. She is said never to have seen him again after the parting at Exeter in October, 1497, and it is possible that on realising he was an impostor (if he were) she disowned and abandoned both him and the children. The latter is rather hard to believe; but having no option but to remain at Court she might not have been quite a free agent. It may be that after her death these children erected the monument at Fyfield to her memory. From what we know of her last husband Christopher Assheton (not Ashfield) it is unlikely that he incurred any such expense himself.

A young man about the Court, he married Katherine as her fourth husband in 1535, when she must have been nearly or quite sixty; the only object of such a marriage could have been her property. Katherine died about October, 1537, not 1527 as stated by Lysons and followed by you.

The manor of Fyfield "which he now holds in right of his wife Katherine" with other properties was granted to Christopher Assheton 20 January, 153⁶₇, for 30 years after her death. (L. & P. Hen. 8. vol. 13). There is evidence that Assheton was living at Fyfield in January, 155⁶₇, being implicated in certain of the intrigues against Mary; he fled the country soon after then and with others was proclaimed a traitor. In August, 1556, commissioners were appointed by the Privy Council to inquire into and report on his property.

Assheton only had an estate for years in Fyfield manor (about 11 years to run in 1556), so that it is clear neither he nor the representatives of his widow (as stated by Lysons) could have sold the freehold to White; they did not possess it. The chances are that the residue of the lease was forfeited to the Crown some time in 1556, whereupon the freehold was acquired by White. This would fit in all right with the generally accepted date of the foundation of

St. John's College in 1557. Lysons quotes no authority for dating the purchase in 1555 and may have been mistaken.

It was not till about 1510—12 that Katherine was provided with an English husband (James Strangeways). She was then over thirty. In 1510 she received the grant of Fyfield and other Berkshire manors (for life?). Her supposed relations with Henry VII. whilst an attractive young widow, were the subject of gossip by the chroniclers of the time—Hall of Gray's Inn, and Lesley of Edinburgh.

The photographs you are contributing to the Journal are such a valuable feature that I hope you may long be able to continue them. If to your other services to the archæology of the County you could add a comprehensive index to date of the contents of the Journal, it would be a great boon.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

ARNOLD E. PRESTON.

Note.

AN ANCIENT ROMAN VILLA.—A Roman villa of the first half of the second century before Christ has been discovered on the Via Tiburtina, a few miles from Rome. Numerous statues and several incriptions have been found and removed to the National Museum.



Chequers Court.—A Gift to the Nation.

By the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, M.A., F.S.A.

THE generous and munificent gift of the ancient, beautiful, and historic mansion of Chequers by Sir Arthur and Lady Lee to the nation for the purpose of providing an official country residence for the future Prime Ministers of England has aroused the interest and public gratitude of the people. The originality of the scheme, the noble idea conceived with so much liberality, and the true spirit of statesmanship displayed in its execution, are worthy of all praise, and future Premiers will be especially grateful to these generous donors who have provided them with a delightful, sylvan, and magnificent retreat, wherein they can recruit their health and strength and alleviate the cares of State amidst the most delightful country in Southern England.

One of the results of this noble gift will be to preserve for posterity the noble mansion which has played no inconsiderable part in national annals. As an example of Tudor architecture it is unrivalled. The scheme devised by Sir Arthur Lee and embodied in the trust deed provides that "no alteration, mutilation, addition or subtraction shall be made to the principal features of the house." This is a wise proviso. Chequers has suffered not a little from the action of late Georgian goths and vandals who wrought havoc in the old mansion. It underwent painful vicissitudes; but all traces of their handiwork have been removed by wise and judicious restorations, with the primary object of bringing the house back to the appearance and atmosphere intended by its original builders. The sash windows which had been inserted on the south side have been replaced by mullioned windows; the mullions on other sides, which had been altered, have been restored. Some foolish-looking battlements have been removed, and the gables replaced. Most of the stucco has been stripped from the walls and the original brickwork has been exposed to view again. The central court has been covered in, and now forms a large and handsome hall, lighted by stained-glass windows in which are the arms of former possessors. The house is now very much the same in appearance as when William Hawtrey built it in 1565, and when poor Lady Mary Grey, sister of Lady Jane Grey, walked through its chambers a disconsolate prisoner.

The situation of Chequers is charming. Right boldly above the rich vale of Aylesbury, and bounding it on its southern side, rises the northern face of the Chiltern Hills; and here we find, cutting their way through the chalk, many of those lovely beech and box-clothed ravines which run up steeply from the flat plain and form the most romantic portion of mid-Buckinghamshire. About two miles due west of the quaint little town of Wendover a lane winds up one of these verdure-clad ravines, twisting and turning through the chalk and gravel. We climb the steep ascent until we reach

“The breezy hill that skirts the down,

Where a green grassy turf is all I crave,

With here and there a violet bestrewn,

Fast by a brook or fountain’s murmuring wave.”

When we have reached “the green grassy turf,” we find that it is a park of considerable size. On the west stands out Beacon Hill, whence Malvern Hills may be seen on a clear day. A little further westward is Kimble Castle, once the stronghold of

“The lofty cedar, royal Cymbeline,”

the reputed birthplace of Caractacus, now a mere earthwork, overlooking the fairest glens to be found anywhere in the Chilterns, so fortunately named “Velvet Lawn,” “Silver Spring,” and “Happy Valley”; and then we see the grand square mass of buildings which rises in so stately a fashion in the very centre of the park, just where the well-grown timber trees form an attractive background to the rich and mellowed brickwork.

Park and house have borne for many hundred years the name of Chequer, which was that of its possessors in the time of Henry II., the family of the Exchequer, or in Latin form, “de Scaccariis.” Elias de Scaccario, the keeper of the King’s Exchequer in that reign lived there, but his house has long passed away. Tradition states that it was rebuilt in 1326. This family died out in the male line in 1554, when by the marriage of the heiress Katherine the estate passed to Sir William Hawtrey, whose family was known by a Latin name, “De Alta Ripa.” The Hawtreys held it till 1597, and Sir William rebuilt the stately mansion which we see to-day, completing the work in 1566. On the north front appears this date, together with the arms of Chequer, Hawtrey, and Coke, a “Haw Tree” and the initials of the builder and his wife, W. H. and A. H.

This house became the beautiful prison of the unfortunate Lady Mary Grey, who was committed to the charge of Sir William Hawtrey. She was the daughter of the Marquis of Dorset and sister

of the still more unfortunate Lady Jane Grey. Lady Mary's offence was that she had ventured to marry, without the permission of Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Keys, the Sergeant Porter of the Royal Court. The results were disastrous. The bridegroom was sent to the Fleet prison and Lady Mary to Chequers, where she stayed two years "without going abroad." She wrote piteous appeals to Mr. Secretary Cecil, one of which is preserved in the British Museum, and is as follows —

"Good Master Secretary, I have received your message sent me by Master Hawtry wherein I do perceive you are in doubt whether I do conteneue my toly still or no; which I assure I do as muche repent as ever dyd any, not only for that I have thereby given occasion to my enemies to rejoyce at my fond parte, but also that I have thereby incurred the Queen's Maies-ties displeasur, which is the greatest greffe to me, for that the princes favour is not so soon gotten again, and I assure you to be without it is such a greffe to any true subjects hart as no torment can be greater. I most wofull wrecke have so wept, desiring rather deathe than to be any longer without so great a jewel, as her majesty's favor sholde be to me. Wherefor for God's sake as you have begun for to be a means to her majeste in getting me this greate and long desired tressure, so continue untill you have made me so happy as to obtain it for me. And this I will not trouble you any further this tyme, prayinge to God to send you prosperous success.

From Chekers the vi daye of february, 1566

Yours to commande duringe

my lyfe, MARY GRAYE."

After two years Lady Mary was placed under the charge of a less vigorous gaoler, her aunt, the Duchess of Suffolk. The estate passed by the marriage of the heiress Bridget to Sir Henry Croke at the end of the 16th century. She died in 1638, and her monument appears in Ellesborough Church. She must have been a somewhat masterful lady, as she is thus described: "*Fœminæ nihil habens nisi sexum.*" The Crokes were Cavaliers, fought for King Charles in the Civil War, and were deprived by Parliament of their estates. However, Sir Henry recovered the property by paying a composition, and it remained in the family and passed by the marriage of Mary, daughter of Sir Robert, to John Thurbarne, M.P., Serjeant-at-Law. She had no issue and left the property to her husband's only child by a former marriage, Joanna, who married as her second

husband John Russell, the third son of Sir John Russell and Frances, daughter of Oliver Cromwell. It was in consequence of this marriage that Chequers became possessed of the magnificent collection of Cromwell portraits and relics which form so interesting a feature of the mansion.

Chequers remained in the Russell family until the death of Mary Russell at the beginning of the last century, when it passed to her cousin, Dr. John Russell Greenhill, whose son, Sir Robert Greenhill, assumed the name of Russell and was created a baronet in 1831. At his death in 1836 the estate passed by will to his cousin, Sir Robert Frankland, who assumed the name of Russell. His widow died in 1871, and Chequers passed to her fifth daughter, Rosalind Alicia, who married in 1854 Frances L'Estrange Astley, a descendant of Sir Jacob Astley, who fought in the Civil War, was Governor of Reading during one of its sieges, and commanded the King's infantry at Naseby. The last member of the Astley family who owned Chequers, Mr. H. J. Delavel Astley, died without issue in 1912. Sir Arthur and Lady Lee became life tenants of the estate eight years, and began their beneficent work of restoring the house and gardens and subsequently acquired the freehold for the purpose of presenting it to the nation in accordance with the scheme to which reference has been made.

In the interior the rooms have been altered from time to time, but the magnificent library, lighted by lofty bay windows, and eighty-one feet in length, still forms two-thirds of the upper floor of the west front. The small room in which Lady Mary Grey is supposed to have been imprisoned is at the north-east angle, and now forms an inner drawing-room. The little china closet which opens out of this room is really the staircase by which the lady ascended to her bedroom.

The treasures which Chequers contains are extraordinarily interesting, but are far too numerous to be recorded in this article. Of Cromwellian portraits there are a three-quarter portrait by E. Walker, a miniature of him by Samuel Cooper, and a picture of him when an infant, dressed in a white light dress with a close-fitting lace cap. But this is not believed to be genuine by good authorities. Among the relics are a life mask, a ring with a miniature by S. Cooper, his swords and his slippers. Portraits of his family are numerous, including those of Richard Cromwell, Henry, Bridget, Mary (the two last painted by C. Janssen), Elizabeth (Mrs. Claypole), Frances (Lady Russell), John Claypole; Thurloe, his secre-

tary ; Jeremy White, his chaplain ; Cornet Joyce, who captured Charles I. ; General Lambert, by F. Bol ; Cromwell's wife, by S. Cooper. Sir Arthur Lee is a great collector and connoisseur of pictures, and has added considerably to the store of paintings, including examples of the English School by painters such as Raeburn, Reynolds, Crome, Constable, Gainsborough, Hoppner, Lely, and others, besides several by Dutch artists.

There used to be an unknown portrait, the *fac-simile* of one at Denton, with the legend :

“ Away I passe from what I was.

What I give I have, that I kep I lose.”

It may still be there, with others that formerly adorned the walls, including a painting of Charles II., with Colonel Lindsay, Lord Wilmot, and Colonel Gunter meeting after the battle of Worcester ; James, seventh Earl of Derby, beheaded at Bolton ; Prince Rupert (Vandyck ?), and Mary Queen of Scots by a French artist.

The library contains many rare treasures, valuable early books and choice editions, autographs and manuscripts, but it is impossible to record its varied and interesting contents. It is pleasant to reflect that owing to this priceless gift to the nation these collections will not be dispersed, but will remain in the house that has sheltered them so long.

It is appropriate that this country home for the Prime Ministers of England should be situated in a county that is rich in Statesmen. Buckinghamshire has produced no less than seven Premiers—James Stanhope (1717—18), George Granville (1763—5). William Petty, Earl Shelbourne (1782—8), William Henry Cavendish Bentinck, Duke of Portland (1783, 1807—9), William Wyndham Grenville, Baron Granville (1806, 1807), John, Earl Russell (1865—66), and Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield (1868, 1874—80). The memories of Burke still haunt the shades of Beaconsfield, though his home, Gregories, is no more ; and near by is Great Kimble, where John Hampden sounded the call to freedom, and Wendover, for which Burke and Canning sat. The air of Buckinghamshire is evidently good for statesmen.

Future Ministers or other high officials of State who will have the privilege of living beneath the ancient roof-tree of Chequers Court, will ever be grateful to Sir Arthur and Lady Lee for this magnificent gift, and the nation is proud to accept that which has been so generously offered and so wisely bestowed, one of the stateliest homes in England.

Hurley Church and Priory.

By the Rev. F. T. Wethered.

IT would be interesting to know as to how quickly the great mission of Birinus to Wessex made itself felt down the Thames below Wallingford, a distance of some thirty-two miles from Hurley, along the river. Birinus arrived in Hampshire in the year 634, and was established in the See of Dorchester in 635 by Cynegils, King of Wessex, whom he himself had baptized. Birinus died in 650, and his body was buried at Dorchester, in Oxfordshire, translated afterwards to Venta (Winchester), to which place the Dorchester See was removed by Bishop Heddi in *c.* 683. Bede tells us that Birinus "built and dedicated Churches"; and inasmuch as our County of Berks was within the limits of the great West Saxon Diocese until 909, in which year Berkshire was transferred to the See of Ramsbury, I see no reason at all why some Saxon Thane may not have been converted to Christianity at Hurley at a very early date indeed and founded a great portion of our present Church. There are two distinct periods, chronologically and architecturally, in the structure of the present building—one from the angle on the south-east side of the quadrangle (on the northern side of the Church) to a point in the rubble wall of the Church a few feet west of the old blocked-up Norman doorway, while the other extends to the extreme south-west end of the quadrangle. I quite agree with "Plantagenet" in "The Gentleman's Magazine" (1839) when he says that there is a great probability that this identical Church may have been ravaged and partly ruined by the Danes in A.D. 870, during their occupation of Reading, or else in 894 when they traversed Herlei on their way "up by Temese" from Essex to Gloucestershire—as we are informed by the Saxon Chronicle, and as attested by the existence of the "Danes Ditches" at Danesfield across the Thames, three-

quarters of a mile or less from this Church, on the Buckinghamshire side of the Thames. The movements of the Danes from Essex into Gloucestershire are mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 894. So much for the first, or conjectural, stage in the history of Hurley Church. The next stage is, of course, by far the most interesting of the periods into which our Hurley history may conveniently be divided. Geoffrey de Mandeville (originally Mandeuille or Magnaville), who founded Hurley Priory in *c.* 1086—1087, is said by Wace to have “rendered great aid at the Battle of Hastings, and to have been one of the chief grantees after the conquest, and to have held lands in ten different counties.” He owned the whole or part of more than a hundred Manors besides his Suffolk holdings. The Abbey at Walden (Saffron Walden) in Essex was founded by his grandson Geoffrey de Mandeville the second, a reckless dare-devil, in the year 1136. This grandson of our founder did something for Hurley. That is to say, conjointly with his wife Roesia, he made a grant to Hurley Church of part of the tithe which their chaplain, William, had received “*de domenica curia monachorum ejusdem ecclesie.*” He was killed at the battle of Burwell, in Cambridgeshire, when fighting against King Stephen on a hot summer’s day, he having carelessly removed his headpiece and loosened his coat of mail. A humble bowman saw his chance and shot an arrow from the fortress which struck Geoffrey’s unguarded head (“*. . . quidam vilissimus sagittarius ex his qui intra castellum erant capiti ipsius comitis lethale vulnus impressit.*” (*Chron. Ram.* 331, 332)). The wound was fatal, and he died later at Mildenhall in Suffolk. Inasmuch, however, as the Earl died excommunicate, his body was refused Christian burial. It was taken straight off to the “Old Temple” in Holborn, and was enclosed in a leaden coffin—and, according to some, hung up on a gnarled fruit tree, where it remained for twenty years. Later on, it is said that, the ban of excommunication having been removed from Geoffrey, the Prior of Walden endeavoured to seize the body in order to bury it in Walden Abbey; but the Templars forestalled the Prior and buried it in their own new graveyard in London.

I do not know the date of the death of the elder Geoffrey, who was the founder of Hurley Priory. All I can say is that he signed a charter in 1119. He had buried his first wife, Athelais, in Westminster cloisters and had mentioned his intention of being buried by her side (“*qui etiam juxta eam sepeliendus sum*”). Looking back

along the vista of our Hurley history, I always think of Leceline, Geoffrey's second wife, with peculiar interest. *O si sic omnes!* Her's was a very gracious and unselfish character. She was a lady, in the truest and best sense of the word—a gem in the chaplet of our very interesting past! Her religion was genuine altogether. It was by her loving suasion and out of her affection for her husband that our monastery was built. In the Hurley charter which founded our monastery, Geoffrey de Mandeville gives us to understand that he dedicated his gift to God and to St. Peter and to the Church of Westminster as also to St. Mary of Hurley for the salvation and redemption of his own soul, and for the soul of his wife Leceline, “by whose counsel [and] by the Providence of Divine Grace I began this good work; and for the soul of Athelais my first wife and the mother, now deceased, of my children; as also for that of all my heirs and successors.” Such are some of the opening words of his interesting deed of gift, a copy of which—in English—has been hanging up on one of the walls of Hurley Church for many years. I append his words in the original grant, viz., “*pro salute et redemptione anime mee et uxoris mee Leceline cujus concilio gratia divina hoc bonum inchoavi et pro anima Athelaise prime uxoris mee matris filiorum meorum jam defuncte me succedentium.*” His gift was, of course, also offered as a thank-offering to God for the bounties in this world's goods that had been showered upon him by his friend and Sovereign, the Norman Conqueror.

When our founder came to Hurley he found Esgar, the constable of King Edward the Confessor, in actual possession of three out of the six manors in Berkshire which had been given to him by the Conqueror, viz., Hurley, Esgarston and Streatley. (The other three in Berkshire were East Ilsley, West Ilsley and Whatcombe).

The name Esgar (or Asgar) has a curious and thrilling derivation. “As” is an old heathen name for “God.” “Gar” is Anglo-Saxon for “spear.” Perhaps in the transmutation of the name to “Esgar” the idea of *æsc*—ash tree may be noticed. The wood of the ash tree is often used for spear shafts.

It is stated in “Ely Book” that Alfhære or Esgar, Cing's stabul (Constable), seized upon the Abbey lands at Pleshey, in the time of William the Conqueror, and extorted a permission from the House to hold them during his life. But the Monks, we are told, never

recovered their property. Being, like honest Englishmen, staunch haters of the Frenchman and invader, they incurred the resentment of the Norman Duke for aiding and comforting his bitter foes, Edwin and Morcar. He imprisoned Alfhære for life, perhaps because he was a formidable person, and kept his lands. Such, then, was the man who undoubtedly gave his name to "East Garston," viz., Esegarestona (Esgar's Town). I mentioned all this about Esgar in my paper entitled "Esegarestona (Esgarston) *versus* East Garston" in the "Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal" for January, 1904. Esgar met his successor in the Manor of Hurley at the Battle of Senlac near Hastings on October 14th, 1066. Even as it was the privilege of the men of Kent to strike the first blow, so too was it the privilege of the men of Middlesex, with Esgar their Sheriff at their head, to defend Harold's standard on that memorable day. Esgar was badly wounded in the fight. Mr. Freeman writes: "The chief military command in London was in the hands of the wounded Staller Ansgar [Esgar], the Sheriff of the Middle Saxons. . . . But he is spoken of as being the soul of all the counsels taken by the defenders of London." Unmanageable at last by King Edward [the Confessor], he was severely dealt with by King William. He lost his liberty, and then his life, in a prison cell.

Hurley Church was restored and repaired in 1852—53; but the Norman work in it is very beautiful still. A Crusader's Cross is scratched on an old stone in the wall, close to the west door with its beautiful chevron work around the arch of it.

Hurley Church is the burial place of Edith, sister of King Edward the Confessor. A large black folio-book commonly known as the *Liber Niger Quaternus* exists at Westminster which contains a register of Charters from the reign of William I. to the time of its compiler, Abbot Esteney (1474—1498), which gives the following Memorandum, dated 15 Richard II. (June, 1391—92):—"Eodem tempore Prior et Conventus de Hurley supplicavit domino Regi ut pro reverentia domine Edithe sororis sancti regis Edwardi confessoris ibidem sepulte Et quia dictus locus in multis aggravatur videlicet de inundatione fluminis Thamisis de domibus ruinosis de moris tenentium suorum de onere hospitalitatis sue et quia modice sunt dotati placeat eidem domino Regi appropriare eis ecclesiam de Warefeld Sar' diocesis unde ipsi patroni sunt et ab antiquo fuerint."—There is a brass plate also firmly rivetted on to the stone

floor of the aisle of the Church, with six elegiacs engraved upon it as follows in abbreviated Latin, viz. :—

Percelebris Doyly tenet hic locus ecce Joannem
 Eheu quem pestis hinc inopina tulit
 Dum sibi vita comes, fuit hic preclarus et annis
 Sanguineque, et virtus claruit ampla viro
 Tecum igitur pie Christe Jhesu fac vivat in evum
 Armiger iste sibi celica dona parans
 Obiit iii^{to} Idus Februarii Anno dni. 1492.*



* The date of the year here has an Arabic-Indian numeral, viz. : The aspirated F or V of the Pelasgian alphabet. It represents our modern triangular or crucial figure 4.

The Epithet "Percelebris" as agreeing with "locus" in the lines quoted above has, most unquestionably, direct reference to the historical fact of Edward the Confessor's sister Edith being buried underneath Hurley Church.

There is in the Chancel of the Church a beautifully traced (Decorated) window of chalk (c. 1350 in date). Underneath this window is a blocked-up squint hole opening out into the Churchyard. I believe this to be a squint hole, through which to view the consecrated Host on the Altar near by. I do not think it can be for the purpose of communicating lepers. The font which (anterior to 1852) stood in a baptistery pew towards the west end of the building, on the north side of the aisle, now stands close to the large south (Norman) door, on a raised stone pedestal. It is mentioned in Van Voorst's book of celebrated fonts. The Monastery Dovecote (Decorated) stands in a large grass enclosure near a (Early English) large Tithe Barn. This pigeon house is said to be capable of holding 1500 pigeons. It is not uninteresting to mention here that at Michaelmas, 1389, the Prior of Hurley, William of Ipswich, and the Convent of Hurley gave a Bond to a certain John Terry, of Bray (the original of which is now at Westminster), for the due payment to him, during his life, of an annual pension of thirty shillings and two hundred pigeons [pipiones], together with a weekly payment of one bushel of corn, one bushel of barley, and one

bushel of "avenarum grossarum prout crescunt in terris dominicis de Hurle." The Refectory, or dining hall, of the Monks is still standing. A closed Norman door in the north wall of the Church is exactly opposite to a similarly shaped Norman door in the Refectory or dining hall of the monks. The number of the brethren was usually not more than sixteen, apart from their guests residing in the Monastery. The early Decorated (c. 1307) arches of this old hall of the monks are still in existence. The floor of the Refectory was carpeted with clean straw and with rushes from the fish-ponds in Lady Place, still existing, and it was specially provided that all this litter should be the perquisite of the village blacksmith, who acted as "Marshal" at dinner-time when the monks were in the hall. He carried a wand of office [virgam] at the dinner table, and when he was not doing work in the Monastery, he fixed-up the horses and bullocks [affros] with new shoes for their daily work in the fields and so forth. When the old shoes [ferramenta] were worn out he supplied others from his forge in the village, at the expense of the monks, and was allowed to retain the old iron and nails and the straw and scrapings for his own purposes; and when he had quite finished his day's work and cleaned up at the Monastery, he was always allowed a commons of bread and beer (panem et cervisiam). [I quote a portion of the deed itself:—"Aulam vero nostram quociens necesse fuerit scobare ac mundare et cum stramine ac viridi debitis temporibus facient straminare, quod stramen ad grangiam nostram petere, et viride in dominico nostro colligere et ad aulam nostram asportare, et ut predictum est straminare facient cuius mundacionis fecem vetus stramen ac pulverem ad usus suos proprios asportabunt, et in feodo optinebunt ac etiam qui aulam nostram sic mundaverint vel aliquid viride ad eandem asportaverint, cum aliqua urbanitate panis et cervisie remunerabuntur."] The old blacksmith's forge in Hurley village was pulled down during the last few years of the nineteenth century.

The exact derivation of "Marshal" is nothing else than *mare*—the female of a horse—and *schalb*, middle high German—a servant. No fewer than 562 original charters and deeds connected with Hurley Monastery—which our monks carried up to Westminster when they were driven out of Hurley, at some date between the fourth of February and the twenty-first of April in the historical year 1536,—were lent to me at the British Museum by Dean Bradley and the Chapter of Westminster in 1887. The originals

have long ago gone back to the Abbey, but I have epitomes of every one of them at Hurley Vicarage.

The days of Hurley Monastery are over, but the remains of it are well in evidence along the banks of the Thames. The monasteries were liable sometimes to abuses, but the monastic system of the Benedictines has done great things for England, and wherever they carried the cross they carried the plough. In fact, we have learned agriculture from the monasteries. At the time when Hurley Priory was dissolved, in the early part of 1536, it was worth, according to Dugdale, £121 18s. 5d., and according to Speed £134 10s. 8d.

In my Book entitled "Lands and Tythes of Hurley Priory," printed for private circulation in 1909, the following occurs under "Hurley Priors": "In 1452, whilst John Saffrey, or Sauery, was Prior, Hen. VI. vouchsafed a general pardon to the Hurley monks for all offences they might have committed, unless any of them should have murdered Adam Moleyns, or Molyneux, Bishop of Chichester, or William Ayscough, Bishop of Sarum (the latter being Bishop of the Diocese in which Hurley was then situated); or aided and abetted those who had killed them. Bishop Moleyns had made himself unpopular because—when he was sent by the King to negotiate peace with France, in 1448—he was generally regarded as largely responsible for the surrender (in 1449) of Maine and Anjou, and was murdered at Portsmouth, as a traitor.—Bishop Ayscough was almost entirely a Courtier rather than a Father in God to his Diocese. One day when, as a very unusual occurrence, he had left Court and was celebrating Mass at Edington in Wiltshire, he was dragged from the Altar in his robes to a neighbouring hill and having been there murdered, his body was left naked to the skin in the fields unburied."

Dom. Edmund Downe, who was Prior of Hurley from 1459 to 1467, like many of his predecessors no doubt, encouraged netting in the Thames (for salmon), which was close to the Priory. The reason why Monasteries so often occurred on the banks of a river is, of course, because fish-food formed so large a staple in monastic dietary. In 1461 Jeffrey Poole, Esquire [squier], of Medmenham, let his fishing rights, as lord of the Manor on the Buckinghamshire half of the Thames under Danesfield, one of the broadest reaches in the river, to the Hurley monks,—who, of course, held the fishing rights over the Berkshire half, in their own demesne. Newlock weir is undoubtedly referred to in the 80 years' lease to the Monastery ;

in fact the word 'lockestaple' occurs in the wording of the Instrument. In it the lease is granted of the water and fishing, etc., which "of old tyme perteyned to the Hall lond wythin the said lordship of Medmenham," but in it the right of fishing six times in the year with a draught net is expressly reserved by the lessor, the Priory at such times finding him with "fysshers bootys and servaunts." The rent paid by the Priory was twenty-six shillings and eightpence a year.

Until 1823 salmon were caught regularly, in eel-bucks, in the Thames near Maidenhead; but after that year the run seemed to die out. The latest year in which a salmon is known to have been caught in the Maidenhead district is 1836—on a spinning bait. The introduction of gas lighting into London, which became general in 1814, proved fatal ere very long to salmon in the Thames. The gas residues containing cyanide were poured straight into the river.

In a Close Roll (9 Hen. III. m. 10 *Dorse*) a suit between John of Hurley and the Knights Templars is referred to in respect of a certain obstruction (*de quodam stagno levato*) in the Thames, which had been raised at Bisham (*ad noxam residentium*). It has been a complaint in modern days, on the part of Hurley, that the gear at Temple cannot carry off the river water which Hurley sends down to them, in flood time.

Even Benedictine monks were not always wise, and sometimes our Hurley brethren very plainly gave proof that they were no exception to the rule, and ran riot. From the Patent Rolls of 1340 and 1342 we learn as follows, viz.: an Entry from Andover on September 18th, 1340, informs us of a commission of oyer and terminer which had been issued on complaint by John de Mauduyt that John de Tothale, Prior of Hurley [1338—1349], brothers John Baroun, John de Helmeden and Jordan Moynne, his fellow monks, John le priourescok of Hurlee, Edmund son of John le Cok the elder, Thomas atte Hale [Hall Place], John Splint, John le Heyward [hedge keeper], John Elys, Richard le Whelere [wheelwright] of Lidlewyk [Littlewick], William le Rypereve [steward of the river-bank], Simon de Tothale, chaplain, Philip his brother, etc., etc., assaulted him at Hurlee, co. Berks, and carried away his goods. We may gather that Prior John de Tothale ended his days eventually in the Infirmary of Westminster Abbey and died of the plague. The prison for offenders may still be seen in the vaults of Lady Place.

Priors of Hurley Monastery.

		EARLIEST KNOWN OR APPROXIMATE DATE.	LATEST KNOWN OR APPROXIMATE DATE.
Æiric	before	1141	
William		1157	
John de Rocella		1169	
William Seger		1170-3	
Ralph de Arundel		1173	1200
Robert		1200-1	
William de Stanford		1221	
Richard le Gras		1231	1236
Sanson de Eswelle		1236	
Theobald de Ayswelle		1246	1255
Geoffrey de Suttone		1258	
John de Lyrā		1267	1274
Walter de London		1279	1285
Adam		1292-3	1295.
Richard de Waldene		1299	1304
Alexander de Neuport		1305	1309
Henry		1311	1313
Richard de Coleworth		1320	1336
John de Tothale		1338	1349
Thomas de Combroke		1352	1363
William de Bromle		1365	1375
William de Ypeswyche		1377	1400
John Feryng		1409	1416
William Pulburgh		1416	1417
John Sauereye		1420	1452
Edmund Downe		1459	1467
Thomas Ruston		1468	1480
John Hilston		1482	1497
John Hampton		1498	1501
William Graunt		1504	1510
William Southwell		1513	1536

Hurley Priory was founded in 1086 or 1087.

Hurley Priory was dissolved in 1536.

F. T. WETHERED,

October, 1917.

Vicar of Hurley, Berks.

Vicars of Hurley.

DATE.	PATRON.	VICAR.
1190		Robert.
<i>Temp.</i> Henry III.		Richard.
<i>Temp.</i> Edward I.		John de Quercu.
Institution.		
130 $\frac{4}{5}$ 8 Feb.	Hurley Priory	Adam de Schireborn.
1310 8 Kal. Oct.	,,	William de Wytteneye.
1335 17 Kal. Aug.		Walter de Helmeden.
1342 Id. May	Hurley Priory	Adam de Wytteneye.
1349 8 April	,,	William de Woketon.
		William Hebbotastel.
1351 15 April	Hurley Priory	William de Cornwall
136 $\frac{2}{3}$ 22 Feb.		John Athelard.
1376 12 Oct.	Hurley Priory	John Grene.
1400 7 July	,,	Godfrey Petyt.
1440 7 Dec.	Bishop of Salisbury	John Whatebrede.
		Nicholas Pardon.
1453 15 April	Hurley Priory	Edmund Spencer.
1459 21 Aug.	,,	John Page.
14 $\frac{5}{8}$ 7 March	,,	Geoffrey Spergore.
1488 20 Aug.	,,	Walter Dudston.
1503 24 Sept.		Edmund Aliard.
1505 9 Nov.		Richard Webster.
1507 14 April		Thomas Graunt.
1541 10 Oct.	Charles Howard	James Holys.
1552		William Rooke.
156 $\frac{2}{3}$ Feb.	Queen Elizabeth	Ralph Marler.
1565 17 Oct.	Richard Lovelace	Thomas Hudchmowghe.
156 $\frac{6}{7}$ 20 March	,,	John Dobbes.
1568 9 Oct.	,,	Peter Russell.
1570 26 Nov.	,,	John Butler.
158 $\frac{0}{1}$ 20 Jan.	,,	Thomas Maxwell.
159 $\frac{4}{5}$ 7 March	,,	Henry Lovelace.

1614	9 Aug.	Sir Richard Lovelace	Nathaniel Cannon.
166 $\frac{4}{5}$	23 March	John 3rd Lord Lovelace	Richard Brogden.
167 $\frac{5}{8}$	1 March	„	Samuel Rich.
1678	3 Sept.	„	Thomas Mason.
1683	23 Nov.	„	Daniel Ayshford.
1723	20 Aug.	Robert Gayer	James Smith.
1782	6 Feb.	Duke of Marlborough	Alban Thomas.
1789	8 Sept.	„	William Mavor.
1838	14 July	Hon. Henry Walker	Florence J. Wethered.
1868	5 Feb.	Florence T. Wethered	Florence T. Wethered.

F. T. WETHERED,

Vicar of Hurley, Berks.

JUNE, 1909.





The Origin of the Berkshire Villages.

By Llewellyn Treacher, F.G.S.

(Continued from page 61).

The Romans were emphatically a ruling race and the remains of their occupation of the land are of a corresponding character. Military roads and fortifications are the most important, and the villas or country houses of the more wealthy class seem to have had no connection with the villages, being built on quite different sites which when their owners left were abandoned and soon forgotten only to be discovered by chance in recent times. Although in Roman times Britain was an agricultural country, and part of the tribute was raised in corn which was exported to the continent, the Romans themselves were not agriculturalists, at least in Roman villas the bath-room is more conspicuous than the barn.

Now let us pass on to the Anglo-Saxon invasion, about which something must be said, because there is an opinion widely held that many of our villages are actually new settlements founded by the Saxons on sites hitherto unoccupied. The evidence on which this opinion is based is two-fold. First it is said that the invaders either slaughtered or completely drove out all the then existing inhabitants and so took possession of their lands and property, settling themselves down on new sites wherever they thought fit, with their families and retainers brought over from the Continent. Thus the whole population was newly introduced and was Saxon. The second argument is that most of our place-names belong to the Saxon language, therefore the places themselves did not exist at an earlier time.

Now although in some parts of the country the Saxons may have driven out or exterminated their predecessors, I do not think that was the case in Berkshire, where the invasion seems to have been less a conquest than a peaceful penetration. At that time East Berks, with the adjoining part of Surrey, consisted of a tract of open heath land surrounded by a belt of oak forest and inhabited only by little groups of foresters settled in the more fertile spots. At first

this was hardly worth the trouble of separate acquisition, and the bulk of it became public land or royal forest, from which grants were afterwards made to various Ecclesiastical Corporations and a few to private folk. The western part of the county from the ridge-way southward to the Kennet was fairly well wooded, as shown by the place-name Catmore, from the Celtic *coed*, a wood and mere, a pond. The Vale of White Horse was a highly cultivated district with many flourishing villages, and probably formed one of the small Celtic kingdoms remaining from pre-Roman days. Objects discovered in the ancient cemeteries at Dorchester, Long Wittenham and Frilford suggest that there were Saxons in these parts before the time of Cerdic. These must have been early arrivals, and probably came up the Thames Valley, passing along after the manner of their kind till they found a country worth living in. Few in numbers but with pushing, energetic characters, they seem to have gradually become possessed of the rule of the little kingdom and to have at length transformed it into the later Saxon Wessex. In favour of this theory we may notice that the earliest seat of the West Saxon Bishopric was at Dorchester, just across the Oxfordshire border, and supposing that Birinus, its founder, followed the usual rule of the Bishops in fixing his headquarters near the residence of the King, it would appear that the capital of the kingdom was somewhere in this neighbourhood, and I would suggest the village of East Hendred as being its actual site. It was certainly one of the most important of the line of prosperous villages before mentioned, and it had other peculiar qualifications. In the parish are five distinct manors, of which one is even to this day a King's manor. Then from the village there is a straight road leading up the escarpment to the mound at the summit now known as Skutchamer Knob, but formerly as Cuckhamsley Hill, and still earlier as Cwichelmslow. It is probably a barrow or burial place of a person of importance, who may have been one of the Wessex Kings. Coming to the name of the village we find that both our recent authorities on Berkshire place-names distinguish it as a Saxon name and interpret it as meaning Hen's stream, or the rill of water hens. Now if the newly-arrived Saxons could give it no better name than this it could not have been of much importance in those days. But is the interpretation correct? It seems to me that much light is thrown on the subject by the following extract from the interesting book on the Welsh people by Rhys and Jones. In describing Wales as it was in the twelfth century the authors remark that :—"The domestic life

of the Welsh centred round the timber-built houses of the kings, princes or lords which were scattered in the valleys and on the lower slopes of the hills. . . . The dwellings of some families were duplicated : in the summer they lived in a house on the higher part of their property called the havod-dy (literally summer-house) and in winter returned to the principal residence (hen-dref, literally the old stead) set up in a more sheltered place below." The latter exactly describes East Hendred, and if it was true of Celtic Wales in the twelfth century, would it not also apply to Celtic Berkshire in the sixth? If so I think we have in East Hendred not only the earliest capital of Wessex but also, in the light of after history, we may see in it the first capital of the British Empire, and then for the real homeland of our nation we should look not across the North Sea but rather to our own County.

Further, the White Horse of the Vale is not a true Saxon horse. That, as may be seen at Westbury and other places, was a more fleshy sort of animal, while the Berkshire specimen has been well likened to an attenuated cat. Moreover, it is the creature represented on ancient British or Celtic coins. Again, near the White Horse is a spot called Dragon Hill. Now the dragon was a Celtic emblem, and was also for hundreds of years the standard of the West Saxon realm, in fact until the fatal day when

"The green dragon of the Wessex Kings
On Hastings' field went down."

If the Saxon occupation of the district was of so peaceful a nature it may be asked what became of the language of the old inhabitants, of which but few traces seem to have survived? Well, judging from the circumstances there must have been considerable confusion in this department of village life. There were the Celtic and the Roman languages, and also that of the aborigines, although it is not easy to discover what the last really was. They appear to have been practically inarticulate, using perhaps as much of the language of their rulers as enabled them to get along in their lowly social position, though of course they must have had some other means of communication among themselves, local dialects and the like, such as existed in remote country places right up to the establishment of village schools on a national system.

Into the midst of this came the Saxons with their strong language, and there is no doubt but that the Saxon language was a strong one. It had great powers of driving out competing tongues, and its survival value, as time has shown, was enormous. To-day

it, or some of its varieties, bids fair to become the universal speech. Is it any wonder that the language of the earlier peoples soon disappeared? There was no need for physical extermination, the mental and moral pressure was quite sufficient to account for it. Then we come to the question of place-names. That these are not all Saxon I have shown in the cases of Catmore and Hendred. But supposing they are it does not necessarily follow that the places were first occupied in Saxon times. At the most the names only tell us what the Saxons thought about the places when they first came into possession of them. In addition to having a strong language they also had a strong sense of the value of property, even to the extent of what has been called a mania for owning things. Consequently when they obtained their Berkshire estates they at once gave them names to distinguish them from other estates in the neighbourhood. This characteristic of theirs has survived to the present day among their descendants, the only difference being that large landowners, having more or less respect for what is already established, do not often change the names of their estates, but to find the custom in full activity we have only to observe what goes on in suburban villadom, where houses change their names not only with every new owner but also with nearly every tenant.

The disappearance of place-names of Celtic derivation may also be explained by the fact that the Celtic temperament is more poetical and loves mystic generalizations, while the Saxon is scientific and is drawn rather to individual facts. So we find what Celtic names do survive are such as those of rivers and other natural phenomena, describing the thing as it is without attempting to distinguish it from other similar things. Perhaps it is a survival of the Celtic spirit which causes us to say "going to town" when going to London, or as villagers talk of their own dwelling-place as "the village," its distinguishing name being understood, while the Saxon spirit is more apparent in the Post Office Directory, or, better still, in the rate collector's books.

To sum up, my argument is that our Berkshire villages, one and all, originated with a primitive farmstead founded near a spring or small stream whence could be obtained a dependable supply of water for men, horses and cattle. Also that the time of their foundation lay within the period, mainly pre-historic, during which the first beginnings of agriculture were taking the place of the hunting and fishing stage of human progress. They were well established before the arrival of the main Celtic tribes, the Romans found them

here and left them practically untouched, to the Saxons most of them owe their names and also a great part of their internal organization, but we need not now follow their development through the Danish invasions and the Norman conquest.

At first, and probably for some time after their foundation, the question whether the farm should remain a farm or expand into a village, and what kind of village, depended almost entirely upon the nature of the water supply. Where this was weak, as in East Berks, or intermittent as in the central chalk tract, the villages rarely thrived, except in the few instances where they were strengthened by some outside influence or happened to be so situated as to be convenient centres of trade or market towns. But where the water springs were strong and reliable, as below the escarpment of the downs, there the infant settlements made a rapid growth. Moreover in the last case, the springs being numerous and close together, so were the villages, and it may be noticed that these thriving settlements when they began to be organized into parishes soon acquired definite boundaries, while in the case of the weaker ones the boundaries long continued uncertain, there being more land around the latter than the central establishment could profitably occupy, especially in East Berks.

The village sites, once established, seem to have remained the same throughout all their after history, the development of the villages being due either to the natural growth of the farm and its dependent industries or to institutions introduced from the outside. To trace this development from the earliest times is an exceedingly interesting subject, but it is going beyond our present enquiry, which is simply the origin of the Berkshire villages.



APPEAL.

304, BANBURY ROAD,
OXFORD.

DEAR MR. DITCHFIELD,

The late Dr. Macrae left to the Bodleian Library Kelly's Directory for the three counties with many notes, prints, photographs and printed matter relating to many parishes in this Diocese. Mr. Madan has asked me to continue the collection, making Dr. Macrae's legacy a foundation to work on ; so far I have been successful in the immediate neighbourhood.

I propose making this an exhaustive reference to every parish in the three counties, giving a list of literature connected with them, engravings or photographs or reference to where they may be found, churches and other buildings, date of erection or restoration, dedication, openings, etc., special efforts to raise money, printed matter, maps, plans, public notices, sales of property, in fact, anything of local or general interest that would be useful for research in the distant future. Of course any MSS. will be cared for, and be easily accessible under the heading of the parish.

I should be grateful for any suggestions or help towards the success of this collection, and as there is no other person who has so wide a knowledge as yourself of the requirements for this undertaking, I should be glad if you would use your influence when opportunity occurs, to interest the clergy in the project.

I am badly in need of a second copy of Kelly's Directory for Berks, Bucks, and Oxon for 1887, as I wish to add a copy of their description to the other matter pertaining to each parish.

Anything sent to me at the Bodleian will be duly acknowledged.

Yours most truly,

W. P. ELLIS.

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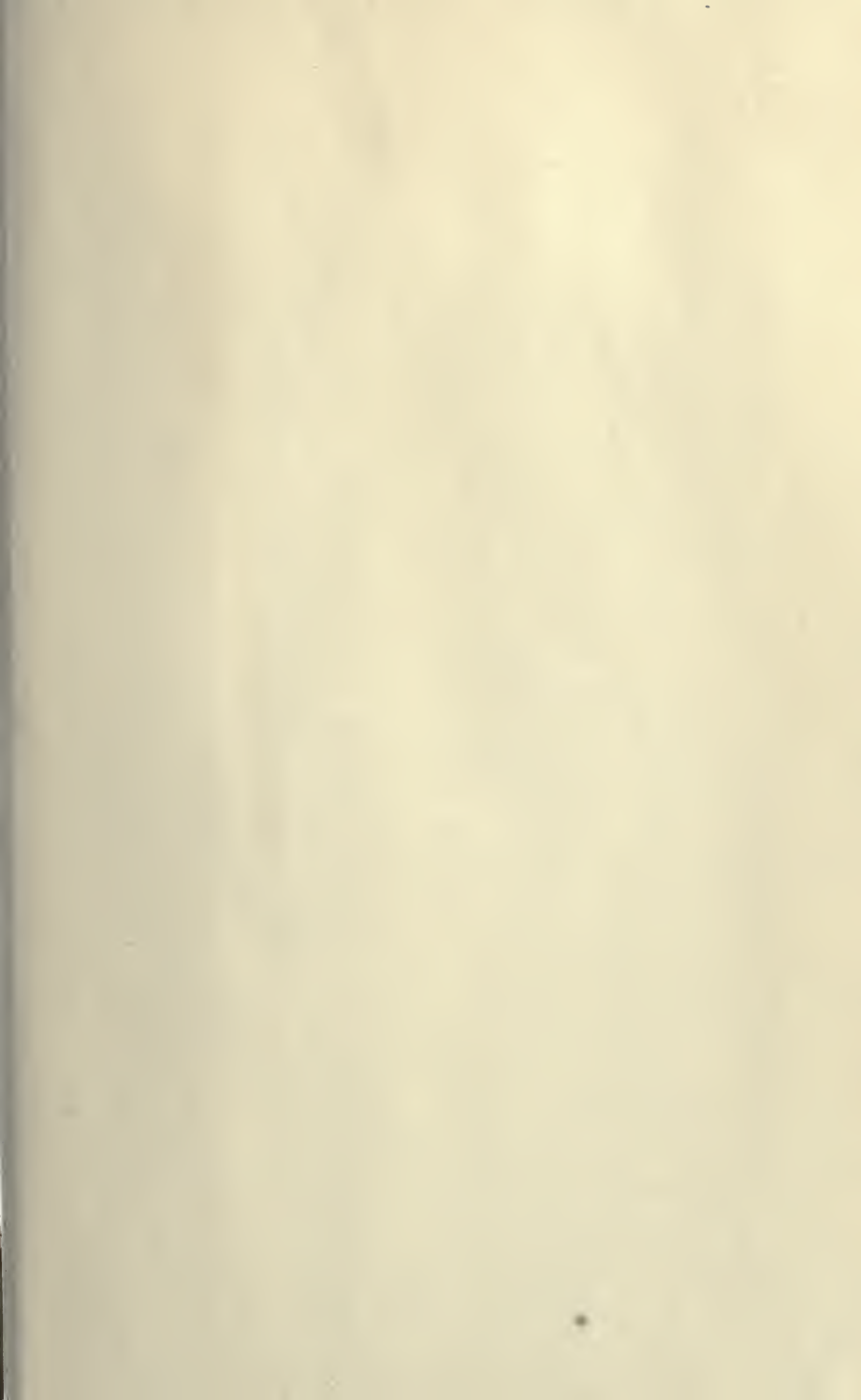
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